

WASHINGTON (AP) — Delta Air Lines announced Saturday a smoking ban on transatlantic, European and Mexico flights, becoming the first U.S. airline to completely prohibit smoking on transatlantic flights. The smoking ban will come into effect on Jan. 1, 1995. The company said in a statement that the decision was a response to popular demand. Surveys of some 22,000 passengers on international flights showed that an overwhelming number of travellers wanted "to make air flying experience smoke-free," the company said.

White House no longer amused by comic strip

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton is the target of political cartoonists, often depicted in an elongated chin and a stare, but as a waffle. To a White House cartoonist, the depiction of Clinton as a waffle is not a laughing matter. Garry Trudeau, creator of the satirical comic strip "The Doonesbury" strip, has been accused of depicting Clinton as a waffle. To a White House cartoonist, the depiction of Clinton as a waffle is not a laughing matter. Garry Trudeau, creator of the satirical comic strip "The Doonesbury" strip, has been accused of depicting Clinton as a waffle.

Settlers scuffle with fence-builders

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (R) — Troops broke up a scuffle on Saturday between Jewish settlers and a group of Israeli, Palestinian and foreign volunteers who were building a fence to protect Palestinians from settler attacks, witnesses said. They said a group of 20 settlers showed and cursed the dozen volunteers, who said they created the fence between settler and Palestinian homes to protect Palestinians from the stones, petrol bombs, and bricks they said settlers frequently threw at the Palestinians' houses. Troops arrived and ejected both sides from the area.

U.S. to hold talks with Cuba

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, Massachusetts (AP) — The United States is to have immigration discussions with Cuba next week, a White House official said here Saturday. The talks will be at the mid-level of the administration, said the official, who asked not to be named. "There is no reason to proceed with high-level talks," added the official. The announcement comes after more than 13,000 Cubans trying to sail to Florida on make-shift boats have been picked up by U.S. Coast Guards this month (see inside).

Pakistan minister 'quits over Kashmir'

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's population and welfare minister said on Saturday he was resigning from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's cabinet to draw attention to alleged human rights abuses in Indian-controlled Kashmir. The private Pakistan Press International (PPI) news agency quoted Julius Shaikh as telling a seminar on Kashmir in Lahore he was quitting in protest over what he called the indifferent attitude of the United Nations, the United States and other powers over rights abuses in the Indian-held part of Kashmir. Mr. Shaikh, a Christian who is the only non-Muslim member of Mr. Bhutto's cabinet, said he would carry on as a member of parliament and continue to support the prime minister, PPI said.

Group appeals for release of Omanis

BAHRAIN (AP) — A London-based Islamic human rights group Saturday appealed for help in freeing what it said were more than 200 fundamentalists arrested by authorities in the Sultanate of Oman. Diplomats said earlier the detainees were accused of stirring up anti-government agitation. Oman, one of the most politically stable countries in the region, has not officially disclosed the arrests, which the diplomats say occurred six weeks ago. The group, who broke the news of the crackdown earlier in the week, said Saturday several of the detainees had been released after they were cleared in the investigations. The diplomats had no exact figures. A London-based group called Liberty for the Muslim World faxed a copy of an appeal to the Associated Press in Bahrain, mainly concerned with one of the detainees, identified as Ahmad Babir Khayri, an Egyptian professor from the University of Alexandria who served as the Sultanate's ambassador. It said Mr. Khayri, who was serving as an assistant professor of production mechanics at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman, was first summoned by Omani police on June 13. It said other Omani political activists have been in detention since May 25.

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Crown Prince returns from Turkey

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan upon his return from a several-day visit to Turkey. The Crown Prince held talks with Turkish President Suleiman Demirel and explained the central role Jordan plays in the Middle East peace process and the Kingdom's effort to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Prince Hassan was also received by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of the Royal Court, Acting Prime Minister Thagha Hindawi and Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, other officials and the Turkish ambassador in Amman.

Syria elects new parliament

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Syria's interior minister, Mohammad Harba late Saturday announced the names of the winners in the latest Syrian parliamentary elections. Mr. Harba said that of the 250 elected members of parliament, 127 belonged to the labour sector. He added that the newly-elected members numbered 158 and the winning incumbents numbered 92. He said there were 83 independents elected, and of them, 38 were from the labour sector. Mr. Harba said 24 women were elected to parliamentary seats, which was an increase of three over the previous legislature.

Peres: No Lebanon deal without Syria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Saturday ruled out a separate peace deal with Lebanon, saying Beirut had to wait for a green light from Damascus.

"Unfortunately I do not believe Lebanon can make peace ahead of Syria, because Lebanon receives its orders from Damascus and has its hands and feet tied," Mr. Peres told military radio. He said Lebanon had sent Israel "polite messages" in recent months but offered no new initiatives.

Uri Lubrani, Israeli coordinator in South Lebanon, said his country insisted on disarmament of the Hizbollah group and a guarantee against reprisals on Israeli-backed militiamen.

But an Israeli defence ministry spokesman said Friday there had been "no discussion between Israel and Lebanon since the last negotiations between the two countries in February, in Washington."

In Beirut, Lebanon's Foreign Minister Fares Bous said the report was a "manoeuvre to divide (Arab) ranks." Mr. Bous added: "The Lebanese government has chosen the Madrid peace process (launched in 1991) and has no intention of breaking with it, either by secret contacts or by public meetings."

Beirut has not held direct talks with the Jewish state since bilateral talks in February, while Damascus has been in contact with Israel through U.S. mediators.

Mr. Bous also turned down U.S. President Bill Clinton's call Wednesday for an immediate end of the Arab economic boycott of Israel, saying it was premature.

"Any move aimed at lifting the embargo on Israeli products can only form part of a peace settlement," Mr. Bous said. "If we really are on the threshold of serious decisions concerning peace, an anti-

cipitation of certain aspects (...) in favour of one or other of the parties would not help establish a real and balanced peace," he said.

Syria is the main powerbroker in Lebanon, where it maintains 35,000 troops, and influences its foreign policy. Lebanon and Syria are the only Arab parties not to have made concrete progress towards peace with Israel, unlike Jordan and the Palestinians which have signed preliminary accords.

Hizbollah fighters attacked two posts manned by militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) Saturday, provoking artillery fire on villages.

Security sources said the guerrillas fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades at the SLA positions in Shoumariyeh and Alman in the central sector of the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT).

The sources said there were no known casualties among the guerrillas or the SLA.

Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the attacks in a statement issued in Beirut.

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Two Israelis killed, Hamas claims attack, vows more

GAZA (Agencies) — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said Saturday its guerrillas stabbed to death two Israeli construction workers near Tel Aviv, and vowed to strike twice more by the end of the year.

Hamas said in a statement the attack on Friday was in retaliation for the February 25 killing of more than 30 Palestinian worshippers by a Jewish settler in a mosque in the still-occupied West Bank town of Hebron.

"This attack is a response to the Hebron mosque massacre on its six-month anniversary, and we promise the Israeli government two more attacks by the end of the year," Hamas said in a statement faxed to an international news organisation.

A witness to the scene of the attack in the town of Ramle called it "unusually brutal, the throats violently slashed."

Police braced for a possible Israeli backlash in the working-class town.

"Any Arab that comes to work on Sunday — his life is

in danger," a Jewish resident told army radio.

Hamas, which leads armed opposition to the Israeli-PLO peace deal, said the Israelis were attacked as they were installing an elevator on the fifth floor of a Ramle building.

"Our lions stabbed them with knives until they were dead," the statement said. It said they found a cigarette packet on one of the bodies, and left it on the chest of one of the victims with the inscription: "Hamas secret unit number 19."

Hamas said its guerrillas had "reached into the depths of the Hebrew state, after they crossed all the roadblocks and Israeli security obstacles," to enter the building near Ramle's central bus station.

After the attack the guerrillas "returned safely to their bases," the statement said.

The attack came at a sensitive juncture in plans to expand Palestinian autonomy, just two days before an early empowerment agreement was to be signed, giving

Palestinian control over education, health and welfare throughout the West Bank.

The leaflet said it was the third act of revenge Hamas carried out for the Hebron massacre and two more would follow before the end of the year. Fourteen Israelis died in two bus bombings in April claimed by the group.

The leaflet also warned that Israel should reopen the Ibrahim Mosque where the massacre occurred.

The cabinet decided this week to further postpone the opening due to the difficulty in working out security arrangements to keep Jews and Muslims separate.

The two dead men bring to 11 the number of Israelis slain by opponents of the peace talks since the Palestinians took control of the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May. Five died in the areas under Palestinian control. In the same period violence has claimed the lives of 15 Palestinians.

Police made dozens of

(Continued on page 7)

Shaath to sign self-rule expansion accord Monday

GAZA (Agencies) — Senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Nabil Shaath said on Saturday the Israeli-PLO agreement on extending elements of Palestinian self-rule to the rest of the West Bank would be signed on Monday at the entrance to the Gaza Strip.

The signing will pave the way for a new phase in the 11-month-old peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians, giving PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat a long-awaited foothold in the still-occupied West Bank.

Dr. Shaath, speaking after a meeting of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) that administers self-rule, said: "The Palestinian authority has endorsed the agreement initiated in Alexandria and has authorised me to sign it on Monday at Erez."

Under the "early empowerment" accord hammered out in talks in Egypt and initiated on Wednesday, Israel will hand over to the PLO control of education, health, taxation, tourism, and social welfare.

Erez, the main entrance to the Gaza Strip, has been the site of recent Israeli-PLO talks.

Palestinian sources said chief Israeli negotiator Danny Rothchild, Dr. Shaath's counterpart in the talks, was likely to sign the agreement for the Jewish state.

Israeli officials were unavailable for immediate comment.

Full implementation of the handover of the five spheres of authority, which began on Wednesday with the beginning of the transfer of education ahead of the school year, will have to wait until foreign donor nations and institutions transfer promised funding to the cash-starved PNA.

The Palestinians are eager to reach an agreement on early control to move to another phase of the peace deal, a redeployment of Israeli troops in still-occupied areas of the West Bank to allow for Palestinian elections.

Dr. Shaath told reporters that agreements on border crossings and "safe passages" for Palestinian travelling

through Israel — thorny elements of the original accord on Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, details of which were deferred to allow self-rule to begin in May — would be implemented immediately after the Monday signing.

The PNA has approved the agreements on "safe passages" between Gaza and Jericho and the border crossings at the King Hussein Bridge, between Jericho and Jordan, and Rafah, between Gaza and Egypt, Dr. Shaath said.

"All these will be signed, and implementation of this will begin immediately thereafter," Dr. Shaath said.

Israel's police chief said on Saturday the killing of two Israelis by militants near Tel Aviv were a test of joint PLO-Israeli efforts to curb Palestinian guerrilla attacks on Jews.

In Gaza, regional Palestinian police commander Major-General Abdul Razzak Al Majaydeh, rejected an earlier Israeli army statement

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Turkish president due here today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Turkish President Suleiman Demirel is due in Amman Sunday on an official one-day visit to Jordan during which he is expected to discuss with His Majesty King Hussein issues of common concern to Jordan and Turkey and developments in the Middle East peace process.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and Mr. Demirel will hold a joint press conference at the end of their talks at Raghadan Palace to review the outcome of their discussions.

Mr. Demirel's visit comes close on a meeting which he held in Ankara last week with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who discussed Middle East issues, as well as the situation in the Balkans and Jordan's contributions to the U.N. peace-keeping efforts in former Yugoslavia.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan told Jordan Television that the King and Mr. Demirel



were expected to discuss implementing the decisions which they reached during the King's visit to Ankara last year.

The two leaders have agreed on upgrading to head-of-government level the chairmanship of the Turkish-Jordanian Joint Committee, Mr. Hassan said.

The two leaders are also expected to sign two agree-

and economically with the countries of the Middle East. "We hope that Turkey will utilise these factors to maximise regional cooperation," Dr. Haddadin said.

Turkey is rich with water resources, with the per capita share averaging 4,000 cubic metres per annum, while the per capita need is around 1,400 cubic metres. Hence, Turkey has a surplus in water resources which it could supply the thirsty countries in the region with their needs of water through water projects that are under discussion by the working group on water affairs in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process of which Turkey is a member.

Petra said Jordan and Turkey were seeking to increase trade between them and Jordan hopes to export more products to Turkish markets to adjust the balance of trade which is currently in favour of Turkey.

Bilateral, trilateral talks resume today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan, Israel and the U.S. will resume their expert-level trilateral and bilateral negotiations here today for two days of follow-up talks on work done by committees.

Alongside these largely technical meetings, the Israeli minister of tourism, Uri Baran, is expected at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel on the Jordanian side to present an overview of the tourism attractions in Israel. He will be accompanied by a number of prominent Israeli tourism

operators.

The tourism meetings are a follow-up to a similar trip by the Kingdom's tourism minister, Mohammad Al Adwan, to the Israeli side on July 17 during which Jordanian tour operators also briefed the Israeli tourism sector professionals on Jordan's tourist attractions.

The two meetings are expected to lay the ground for a planned joint visit to the U.S. where Jordan and Israel will be looking to sell joint tourism packages to the area.

The two-day meetings,

starting today, Jordanian negotiators have said, are not expected to produce groundbreaking results but will only serve as a "follow-up" on the technical dialogue that was started in the bilateral talks at the Moriah Hotel in Israel.

The two-day trilateral talks will be inaugurated by Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, head of the Jordanian negotiating team, Ambassador Eyad Rubenstein, head of the Israeli side, and a senior diplomat from the American embassy in Amman.

trilateral economic committee.

The border and territory committee will conclude an Israeli presentation, that began in the Moriah Hotel bilaterals, on Israel's position on this issue. Jordan made its presentation at those talks.

The two-day trilateral talks will be inaugurated by Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, head of the Jordanian negotiating team, Ambassador Eyad Rubenstein, head of the Israeli side, and a senior diplomat from the American embassy in Amman.

FIS chiefs want talks

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Two Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leaders called on Algerian authorities Saturday to take steps to involve the outlawed fundamentalist movement in talks on the future of the country.

Speaking a day after the FIS's hardline rivals, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), announced it had set up an alternative government, Ali Djeddi and Abdul Kader Boukhankham expressed support for talks between the government and legal opposition parties launched Sunday.

The two men said in an interview with the daily El Hiwar that the dialogue invitation issued by President Liamine Zerroual was "the beginning of hopes which, we trust, will not be dashed."

They demanded that the government call a halt to human rights abuses and allow the country to be ruled by a "legitimate" administration.

The two FIS leaders also asked the authorities to take "practical measures" to allow the participation of the FIS in the dialogue, including lifting the ban on the FIS and releasing its jailed members in prison.

One of those still in prison, the FIS second-in-command, Ali Belhadj, was named a minister in the alternative nine-member government announced by the GIA on Friday.

With Algerian press comment on the government's formation low-key Saturday, observers noted the timing of the GIA statement was probably a response to the president's invitation to opposition parties to talks.

The GIA first announced its intention to set up a caliphate government in May.

The organisation has claimed responsibility for a number of recent attacks against government targets and foreigners.

The attacks are part of an insurgency against Algeria's secular authorities launched

Extremists threaten Cairo conference on population

CAIRO (Agencies) — Muslim extremists urged foreigners to stay away from next month's U.N. population conference in Cairo, saying they were "jeopardising themselves" by joining discussions on immoral subjects.

The threat was contained in a fax sent to Western news agencies late Friday by the Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group).

The group has been blamed for a 2-1/2 year campaign of violence aimed at overthrowing Egypt's secular government and replacing it with strict Islamic rule.

On Saturday, police raided an Islamic Group hideout in southern Egypt as part of a broad search for militants who sprayed a tour bus with gunfire a day earlier, killing a 13-year-old Spanish boy and wounding four others (see

page 12).

The Interior Ministry, which is responsible for state security, said five extremists and a police colonel were killed in the shootout. A sixth extremist and an Egyptian soldier were wounded, it said.

The latest violence came less than 10 days before the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development is expected to bring about 15,000 visitors to Egypt.

Government officials have increased security in Cairo in advance of the Sept. 5-13 conference and have expressed hope it will help rebuild Egypt's tourist business, which has been devastated by extremist violence.

In its fax, the Islamic Group warned that "all foreigners who are participating in the licentious conference

... are jeopardising themselves."

It added: "The Islamic Group starts a new stage in its attacks (and) it appeals to all foreigners not to come to Egypt in the coming period to save their souls."

Al Gamaa said in its statement that the forum had been rejected by the Egyptian people and the highest Sunni Muslim authority, Al Azhar.

Muslim fundamentalists have said the gathering, which will agree an action plan on population control, would promote extra-marital sex and homosexuality. They also charge it was aimed at "exterminating Muslims."

According to Al Azhar, the draft working document should be revised so that it contains nothing that runs counter to the Islamic law of

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Algeria closes border with Morocco as dispute worsens

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria closed its border with Morocco Saturday in a rapidly escalating dispute following Morocco's arrest of two Algerians reportedly planning attacks on Moroccan banks, security forces and citizens.

Algeria's state-run ETV announced that the government had "temporarily" closed the long land border, a move that could unravel years of painstaking rapprochement between the historic North African rivals.

There was no indication when the frontier would reopen. The closure followed tit-for-tat visa requirements ordered by the two countries following Friday's arrests, and the refusal of Morocco on Saturday to admit about 100 Algerians residing in France.

Crowds of Algerians began lining up at Moroccan consulates in Algiers, Oran and Sidi Bel Abbes on Saturday

morning to apply for visas for Morocco, the official Moroccan news agency MAP reported.

Moroccan security forces, meanwhile, kept roadblocks in place throughout the kingdom as the hunt for other members of the gang continued.

Morocco has not revealed the identity or nationalities of the two arrested men but Algerian state radio monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation said they were French nationals of Algerian origin resident in Lyons.

The dispute followed the killing of two Spanish tourists at a luxury Moroccan hotel during a robbery.

Morocco, blaming the robbery on a gang composed largely of Algerians and Moroccans from France, broke with past practice on Friday and said the more than one million Algerians visiting the kingdom annually

would have to have entry visas from now on.

Algeria, which is fighting Muslim fundamentalists who have vowed to set up a purist Islamic state, responded on Saturday by accusing Moroccan security forces of persecuting Algerian nationals resident in the kingdom.

"Algeria has learned with astonishment and reproach reports that Algerian nationals resident in Morocco are subjected to persecutions and excesses on the part of Moroccan security agents," Algeria's official news agency APS said, quoting a foreign ministry spokesman.

The report, monitored in Rabat, said an official protest had been lodged with the Moroccan embassy in Algiers and the Algerian ambassador to Morocco had been instructed to lodge a similar protest against the imposition of visas.

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U.S. urges citizens to leave Somalia

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has urged its nationals to leave Somalia immediately ahead of the withdrawal of U.S. diplomats from Mogadishu by next month.

"U.S. citizens presently in Somalia are advised to leave the country immediately," said State Department spokesman Michael McCurry.

The 25 diplomats in the U.S. liaison office in Somalia and the 55 Marines stationed there to protect them will have been transferred to Nairobi by Sept. 15, Mr. McCurry said.

Several hundred U.S. civilians currently live in Somalia, with 300 of them working with the U.N. mission in "a and 50 others with other humanitarian groups," the spokesman said.

Mr. McCurry was pessimistic about the chances for the kind of "national reconciliation" in Somalia that would allow U.S. nationals to resume their work there. "There are very few signs that leaders will make the necessary compromises," he said.

The United States says it is pulling out due to the lack of progress in the reconciliation process, and the related poor security conditions.

On Thursday, the U.N. Security Council decided to cut the number of U.N. troops in Somalia by 1,500 and did not rule out a total withdrawal if a political settlement were not reached soon.

The decision came after gunmen believed to be members of General Mohammed Farah Aideed's militia massacred seven Indian peacekeepers and wounded nine others Monday.

In a unanimous statement read by Chairman Yuli Vorontsov, the Security Council said the slayings were a "premeditated attack" and members approved the reduction that will bring the force down to 17,200 men.

Mr. Vorontsov also raised concerns over the lack of progress in peace talks between Somali clans, stressing that continued international support and the peacekeeping mission was conditioned on reaching a political settlement.

Some 18,700 peacekeepers are currently deployed in Somalia under a U.N. mandate that was to expire on September 30 and which sets March 1995 as the date for completion of the mission.

The council asked U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to

give them a report by Sept. 30 on prospects for national reconciliation in Somalia and the options for the U.N. force in the country.

The U.S. envoy in Mogadishu Daniel Simpson said on Friday: "We are leaving by the middle of September for two basic reasons — the strong feeling Somalis have not made substantial progress towards a settlement and because the security situation just gets worse."

Analysts said the move it would certainly undermine U.N. peacekeeping efforts in the country.

Mr. Simpson noted that more than 20 U.N. peacekeepers had been killed since March 31 when the U.S. and other Western nations pulled out most staff and handed over policing of the volatile country to a U.N. force drawn from Third World countries.

"They (Somali warlords) are prepared to dance for as long as the bar is open and the orchestra is playing but they feel no urgency to reach a settlement. All of us are weary, sick of it," he added.

He said the U.S. liaison office in Mogadishu will move to the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

Gone with the Americans will be 80 M-60 tanks, 12 Cobra attack helicopters, armoured personnel carriers (APCs) and water purification tanks.

Political analysts in Nairobi said without the American equipment, the U.N. military muscle in Somalia will be massively weakened. They said the U.S. appeared to be putting pressure on the U.N. to leave Somalia too.

"It's going to be a difficult one for the U.N. to operate without the American equipment, especially the tanks and helicopters. This is certainly U.S. pressure on the U.N. to leave as well," a Western ambassador in Nairobi told Reuters.

Mr. Simpson said the foreign presence in some quarters is viewed as part of Somalia's problem and that an end to foreign involvement may pressure factions into an accord.

"Most of the shooting you now see is outside the port, airport and the UNOSOM compound. They are fighting over contracts and positioning themselves to loot when the U.N. goes," he said.

"I can't imagine anyone is going to hurry back here to deal with Somalia's problems one more time," he added.

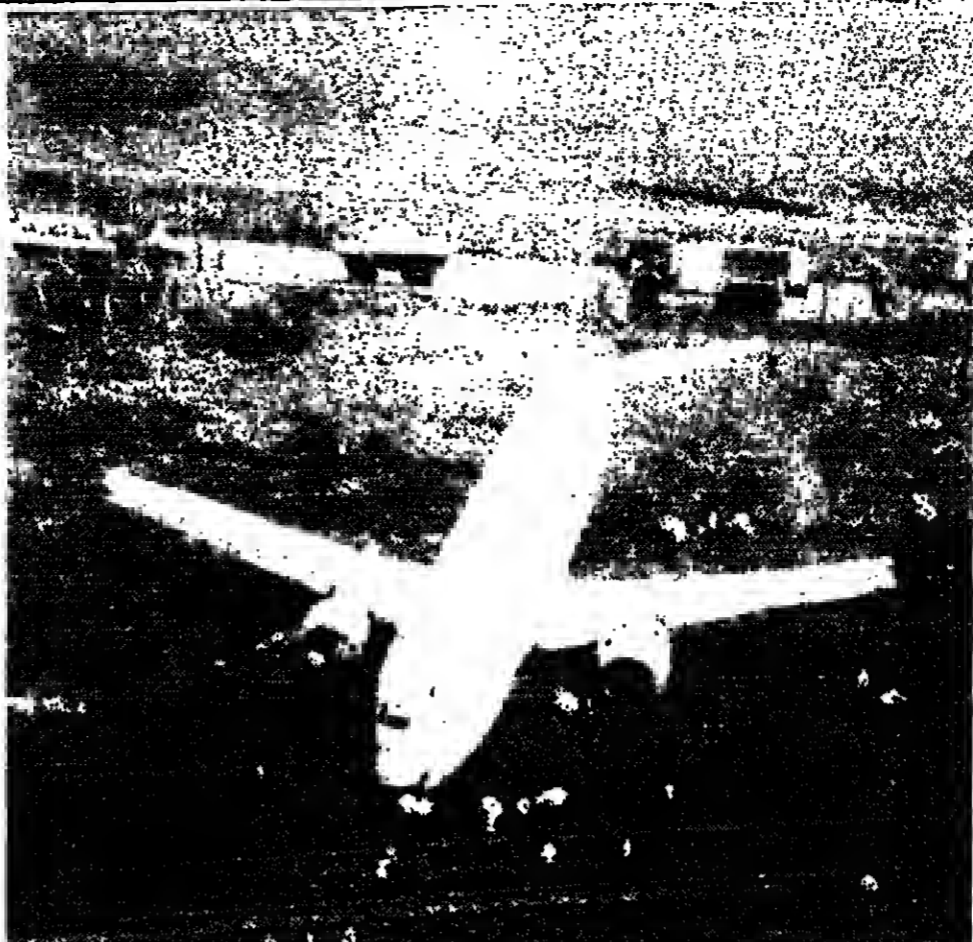
Plane skids off runway to rails

ISTANBUL (AFP) — One hundred and sixty passengers and crew survived a brush with disaster Saturday when their airliner skidded off the runway, crossed a motorway and ran onto a railway line after landing at Istanbul airport, police said.

The Turkish THY airlines Boeing 737 had flown in from Trabzon with 160 people aboard when it skidded off the runway in rainy conditions after the pilot apparently lost control of the plane, informed sources added.

A passenger and an air-hostess were slightly injured in the incident, police said.

Police said a catastrophe was averted because traffic on the motorway was light. Just one driver had to brake hard to avoid the plane. And television images of the incident showed the plane only narrowly missed striking high-tension wires near the airport.



U.N. study proposes major project to develop Gaza fishing industry

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — There is no shortage of fish in the Eastern Mediterranean and it should not have been difficult for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to make a decent living and engage in a flourishing trade in fish had it not been for the restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities.

Now that the Gaza Strip is under Palestinian administration, immense potential exists for the residents of the strip to take full advantage of the possibilities available, says a study conducted by a U.N. agency in coordination with the Arab League and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The study, conducted by the Amman-based Economic and Social Council for Western Asia (ESCWA) in March-April this year, envisages about \$10 million in total spending for a project geared to develop the fishing sector in the Gaza Strip.

It involves building facilities such as berthing and unloading quays, auction hall, slipways, workshops and stores for fishermen at Gaza in addition to fishing shelters at Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah.

In addition, the project proposed by the study includes setting up a government fisheries service, training, follow-up activities, etc., as well as setting up a revolving fund to help fishermen.

The study reports that in 1976, total fishing output at Gaza was nearly 5,000 tonnes, but it plunged to 1,000 tonnes in 1991-92 as a result of Israeli restrictions on fishermen putting out to sea in the wake of the Palestinian uprising which began in December 1989.

"The Israeli administration in the Gaza Strip... restricted the fishing operations along the Gaza Coast," said the study. "The fishermen are not allowed to fish near the Egyptian or the Israeli borders. They must remain at a distance of five kilometres from either border. Moreover, they are not allowed to fish opposite the Israeli settlements established in the Gaza Strip during the Israeli occupation."

One of the main tactics used by Israel until the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord took effect in May this year was a blanket order against Gaza fishermen putting out to sea whenever there was an anti-Israeli attack in the Strip.

"The imposition of heavy taxes, fines and licence fees on the fishermen and boats by the Israeli administration made the life of the Palestinian fishermen intolerable, and forced some of them to drift away from fisheries and to look for another profession," said the study.

The long-term objectives of the project, it says, include raising production to 7,500 tonnes per year, improving efficiency of the sector as well as the income and living standards of fishermen, increasing the availability of fish to the local population, and promoting exports and reducing imports.

Another long-term objective of the project is to develop fish-processing facilities and installations.

In general, the proposed project, if and when implemented, should go a long way towards freeing the Gaza fishing sector from constraints imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities. However, conditions attached by Israel in its negotiations with the PLO on self-rule arrangements might pose difficulties, experts say.

It is expected that the proposed project will be financed from funds pledged by international donors to help develop the economy of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Wholesale price of "good quality" varieties such as red mullets, groupers and breams ranges between \$10 and \$25 per kilogramme, shrimps \$25 and \$30, and sardines 50 cents and \$2.5 per kilogramme, the study found.

Auctioneers receive a five per cent commission from fishermen while the buyer pays in addition three per cent municipal fees and 17 per cent value added tax.

Fishing gear are available on rent from a cooperative society in the Gaza Strip in addition to 10 other private dealers, but at high costs, noted the study.

It lists the immediate objectives of the project it

has proposed as improving fisheries management, enforcing regulations, supporting fishermen through services and financing, and increase the level of fish output at Gaza to 5,000 tonnes per year.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. to pay compensation in 'copter downing'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States said Friday it would pay \$100,000 in compensation to the families of the 11 foreign nationals who were killed in the April downing of two military helicopters in northern Iraq. The payments will go to the families of the six British, Turkish and French military members killed in the April 14 incident, Pentagon spokesman Major Tom LaRocca said. The families of five Kurdish workers employed by the U.S. government will receive a death benefit in the range of \$20,000 to \$30,000 and the Pentagon will supplement that payment to bring it up to \$100,000. The Pentagon said in a report released earlier this year that the pilots of two U.S. fighter planes had misidentified the helicopters as Iraqi and that crews on the observation plane had failed to tell the pilots the two choppers were friendly. Twenty-six people aboard the two U.S. army helicopters were killed in a restricted zone over Iraq. Family members of the U.S. military personnel on board the aircraft were eligible for a \$100,000 insurance payment and all but one had contributed to become eligible for a \$200,000 payment.

Arab, Israeli naval officers to attend symposium

OTTAWA (AFP) — Canada will host a symposium for naval officers from the Middle East that for the first time will bring together high-level Israeli and Arab officers. External Affairs Minister Andre Guellet said Friday. The conference, to be held in the eastern city of Halifax from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1, will focus on joint search and rescue operations, prevention of accidents at sea and cooperation in enforcing security in the region. "Canada is strongly committed to taking concrete steps to advance the Middle East peace process," said Mr. Guellet. "This symposium represents a rare opportunity for senior officers from the region to exchange views face-to-face," he added. Representatives from the United States and Russia, the two countries chairing the Middle East peace process, will also attend the symposium.

Police seize 102 kilos of heroin in Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — Police seized 102 kilogrammes of heroin at a border post Friday aboard a truck bound for Germany, a report said. The heroin was worth an estimated \$4.5 million, Anatolia news agency reported. Anatolia said police at a post on the Bulgarian border, acting on a tip, discovered the heroin among the cargo of a truck carrying textiles to Germany. A suspect was arrested on drug trafficking charges in the southern Mersin province on information provided by the truck driver, the report said.

Iraqi group claims Baghdad car-bomb

BEIRUT (R) — A newly-formed Iraqi Muslim fundamentalist group claimed responsibility on Friday for a car bomb attack in Baghdad earlier this week. The Iraqi Islamic Vanguard for National Salvation (IIVNS) said in a statement in Beirut the attack marked the start of a campaign to "get rid of the unjust regime." A car-bomb exploded on Monday near the headquarters of the official newspaper Al Jumhuriya, killing a child, wounding 13 civilians and slightly damaging the building. Baghdad accused the United States of being behind the blast. The group accused media organisations using the complex of "messing around with the thought of the people and the education of the oppressed masses as well as deceiving the public and international public opinions." The IIVNS, set up by Shiite Muslim clerics close to Iran, announced earlier this month that it was formed with the aim of toppling the regime and establishing a democratic state.

Man killed when bomb explodes prematurely

ANKARA (AP) — A Kurdish man was killed Friday when a bomb he was trying to plant exploded prematurely in Istanbul, the Anatolia news agency reported. The report said the bomb exploded as the man was trying to set it off in a house in the low-income Umraniye district. Police discovered a banner of the illegal Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) at the scene and detained three people, including the man's brother who owned the house, the report said. The PKK has claimed responsibility for some of the recent bombings that have rocked Istanbul.

Indian deputy minister visits Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — India's Deputy Foreign Minister Krisban Srinivasan met with Lebanese leaders here Friday for talks on the Middle East peace process. Mr. Srinivasan, who met Foreign Minister Fares Bouez, told reporters his country wanted to "strengthen cooperation ties with Lebanon." Foreign Ministry officials said Mr. Srinivasan also handed Mr. Bouez a message from Indian Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh asking for Lebanese support in India's territorial dispute with Pakistan. The dispute is to be examined in the next session of the United Nations General Assembly, which begins on Sept. 20. Mr. Srinivasan, who visited Damascus and Amman before arriving in Beirut, was to travel to Cairo on Saturday, officials said.

2 dead, 68 injured in Kabul rocket attack

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — At least two people were killed and 68 injured in a rocket attack on the Afghan capital of Kabul Friday, state-run Radio Kabul reported. The radio monitored here said that a barrage of 83 rockets slammed into the populated area of the city, causing heavy property losses. The radio, controlled by loyalists of embattled Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, blamed forces of rival leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his military ally from the north General Abdul Rashid Dostum for the attack.

Thai police not to charge two Saudis in gems theft case

BANGKOK (Agencies) — Thai police have decided not to pursue charges against two Saudi men in connection with the disappearance of part of the \$20 million in jewellery stolen from a Saudi prince in 1989, news reports said Saturday.

Police chief Pratin Rattanathan told local reporters Friday there was not enough evidence to link the two Saudis to the case.

Thai police had sought permission from the Interior Ministry to arrest Saudi police Captain Saeed Azali, who was sent here to help recover the gems, and an unidentified diplomat formerly attached to the Saudi embassy here.

But the ministry refused permission, saying it might damage relations with Saudi Arabia.

The case involves the theft of 90 kilogrammes of jewellery from a Saudi prince by a Thai servant. The Thai fled to Bangkok with the loot and was jailed, but only about 30 per cent of the items were returned to the prince and much of what was given back was fake.

Saudi Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Said Khoja, who has been waging a five-year battle to recover the jewellery, insists the gems were stolen by Thai police.

Mr. Khoja said Friday that the four Saudi embassy employees murdered here in 1990 were killed because they had vital information about the missing jewellery.

The bodies of the wife and teenage son of a key witness in the case were found earlier this month in a car north of Bangkok. Police first said

they were murdered, and Interior Minister Chaowalit Yongchaiyudh said there was "no doubt that the deaths were linked to the gems case."

But police have since ruled the two died in a traffic accident.

"They were all killed because they had information about the jewellery," Mr. Khoja told Reuters, adding that detectives from his country had determined the link.

It was the first time Saudi Arabia has publicly linked the murders with the jewellery theft.

Mr. Khoja, who directly accused Thai police of one of the killings, said he was due to discuss the issue with Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai next week. "Frankly I am fed up and the government of Saudi Arabia cannot wait any longer," he said.

Mr. Khoja said Saudi Arabia long had believed the four murders were linked to the jewellery theft but decided to go public because Thailand was now looking for scapegoats.

"They have started to look for scapegoats. They said an officer from Saudi Arabia is involved," Mr. Khoja said. Thai police said earlier this month they suspected Capt. Azali was responsible for stealing the missing items.

"This is not a political issue. It is purely robbery on the part of (Thai police) generals and high-level civilians," Mr. Khoja said.

Fifteen Thai policemen, including a former national police chief and his deputy, have been implicated in the scandal and face various charges.

The three murdered embassy staff — two diplomats and an embassy official — were gunned down on Bangkok streets in two separate incidents on the same day in February 1990, about two weeks after the Thai servant was arrested.

Thai police at first suspected the three were murdered over a conflict with drug traffickers, then suggested they were killed due to a conflict over the export of Thai labour to Saudi Arabia.

Police later suggested they were killed by Pakistani gangsters and finally concluded they were murdered by international terrorists.

Mr. Khoja dismissed the finding, saying the killers could have shot other embassy staff but had singled out the three because they had important information about the jewellery theft.

Saudi businessman Mohammad Al Rawwaili, who had links with the Saudi royal family, disappeared the day after the three murders.

Mr. Khoja said on Friday that Thai police had abducted and murdered Rawwaili, then burned his body, because he too had information about the missing jewellery.

A Thai policeman, Lieutenant-Colonel Somkid Boonthanom, was charged with Rawwaili's murder in 1993 but the case was later dismissed for lack of evidence.

Saudi Arabia, angered by lack of progress in the case, stopped issuing new visas to Thai expatriate workers in 1990 when there were about 250,000 of them. Thai labour officials estimate there are 20,000. This still working in Saudi Arabia.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 L'Unité
18:30 News in French
18:45 Fault Pas Revier
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:15 FBI: United States
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Step by Step
21:00 Quantum Leap
22:00 News in English
22:30 Snow River

PRAYER TIMES

04:42 Fajr
06:03 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:37 Dhuhr
16:14 'Asr
19:12 Maghrib
20:34 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
633541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel.
628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

773131.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

772661.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel.

652526.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.

824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Con-

gregation Tel. 684195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in

Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

ment of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to

drop with winds northwesterly

moderate. In Aqaba, winds will

be northerly moderate and strong

calm.

Min./Max. temp. 18/30

Aqaba 25/38

Deserts 16/33

Jordan Valley 24/36

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 33, Aqaba 39 Humidity

readings: Amman 26 per cent,

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197

Dr. Khalid Klob 816715

Dr. Farouq Hour 786580

Dr. Salah Al Usud 649028

First pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Nairokh pharmacy 623672

Al Salem pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 640445

Shmiesan pharmacy 637660

Nairokh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Omari 272032

Aqaba pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Randa Shabih 995710

Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 630341

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

IN BRIEF

sation in 'copter down

The United States said compensation to the families of six British, Turkish and American pilots killed in the April 14 incident, the U.S. government said. The compensation, totaling \$20 million, was paid to the families of the pilots of two U.S. fighters and four British Sea King helicopters that were shot down in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. military personnel killed in the incident were also killed in the Persian Gulf.

ers to attend symposium

Canada will host a symposium on the Middle East for the first time. The symposium, titled "The Middle East: A New Dawn", will be held in Ottawa from September 1 to 3. It will focus on the recent developments in the Middle East, including the signing of the Oslo Accords and the role of the United Nations. The symposium will be attended by high-level officials from the United States, Canada, and other countries.

s of heroin in Turkey

Seized 100 kilograms of heroin in Turkey. The heroin was found in a truck that was stopped at a customs checkpoint. The truck was carrying a large quantity of heroin, which was seized by Turkish authorities. The heroin was found in a container that was hidden in the truck's cargo.

Baghdad car-bomb

Formed Iraqi militia possibility on Friday. The militia was formed by a group of Iraqi soldiers who were stationed in Baghdad. They were reported to have been involved in a car-bombing in Baghdad. The car-bombing resulted in the death of several people and the injury of many others.

lodes prematurely

man was killed Friday in a car-bombing. The car-bombing took place in a busy street in Baghdad. The man was killed by a large explosion that occurred when a car-bomb was detonated. The explosion also damaged several other cars and buildings in the area.

er visits Lebanon

Deputy Foreign Minister visits Lebanon. The Deputy Foreign Minister of Jordan visited Lebanon to meet with Lebanese officials. The visit was part of a series of diplomatic activities aimed at strengthening relations between Jordan and Lebanon. The Deputy Foreign Minister discussed various issues of mutual interest with his Lebanese counterparts.

JAZ RAILWAY

Two people were killed in a train accident. The accident occurred on the Jaz Railway. The train was carrying a large number of passengers when it derailed. The derailed train struck a building, causing a large fire. The fire spread quickly, and two people were killed. The accident caused significant disruption to the railway service.

ARMED PRICE

Armed price in the market. The price of arms and ammunition has increased significantly in the market. This is due to a variety of factors, including increased demand for arms and ammunition and a shortage of supply. The increase in price has led to a decline in the number of people who can afford to purchase arms and ammunition.



12TH GRADUATING CLASS: Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday graduates the 12th class of the Gordoba Community College in Zarqa. At the ceremony, Queen Noor, who is the honorary chairwoman of the college, distributed certificates to the 190 graduates. Established in 1981, Gordoba College was the first to have been established as an intermediate community college for women. The college offers diplomas in 13 specializations ranging from business management and computer programming to sciences and fine arts. It also offers accommodation facilities for non-Jordanian students who wish to pursue their studies in the Kingdom. Furthermore, the college provides financial aid to needy students through a fund-raising social committee. The Queen, who was accompanied by Mrs. Noor Izidine, was received upon arrival by Minister of Interior Saleh Hamad, who is a member of the college board of trustees, and Minister of Higher Education Rafea Saoud. Queen Noor was also received by the mayor of Zarqa, the dean of the Gordoba College and members of the board of trustees (Petra photo).

Saudi-held Jordan-bound cargo slowly being released—sources

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Signs are emerging that a large number of containers carrying Jordan-bound cargo stuck at Saudi Arabia's Jeddah port is being slowly released by the Saudi authorities, but the flow is very slow, businesspersons and other sources said Saturday.

The sources were speaking against the backdrop of reports that senior Jordanian businesspersons were in touch, officially and unofficially, with their Saudi counterparts in the chamber of commerce and the chamber of industry seeking an explanation over why Jordan-bound cargo was being delayed and inspected at Jeddah.

The reports quoted the Saudi businesspersons as assuring the Jordanians that the self-styled inspection of Jordan-bound cargo at Jeddah port was not a policy of the Saudi government and that it was a "mistake" that would be corrected soon.

However, only 56 of nearly 500 Jordan-bound containers have been released in the past week, the sources said.

"It seems that there is no hard and fast decision that the Jordan-bound containers should be released immediately for transshipment to Aqaba," said one source. "The port authorities at Jeddah are taking their own time, studying the situation by consignment, as if the sole objective is to give Jordanian importers as much trouble as possible."

"We don't believe they want to hold on to the port and customs authorities."

At least three ships arrived at Aqaba since Thursday noon when the Lloyd's Register arrangement went into place. All of them are carrying goods for the Jordanian market.

The Associated Press adds: The lifting of U.S.-led naval inspections of Jordan-bound vessels is expected to triple imports into Aqaba, the Kingdom's vital trade centre, shipping officials said Saturday.

"After the lifting of the sea inspections... the cost of maritime transport to here will be reduced considerably and the port will operate as before on a competitive level," said Dureid Mahasneh, director of Jordan's Port Authority.

He said he expected the amount of cargo handled at Aqaba would effectively triple, from a present 12 million tonnes a year to pre-Gulf war levels of 30-36 million tonnes.

"We also expect that 21 maritime lines who stopped shipping to Aqaba after the interceptions began will resume their activities here very soon," he added.

For four years, American warships had conducted strict offshore inspections of all vessels sailing into Jordan's territorial waters as part of enforcement of international sanctions imposed on Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Before the Gulf crisis, 70 per cent of all cargo arriving at Aqaba was destined for Iraq, whose ports were destroyed during the 1980-88 war with Iran. From Aqaba, cargo was trucked to Iraq.

Norwegian firm wins \$70m contract to link Aqaba-Taba power grids

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has awarded two contracts related to linking the national power grid of the Kingdom with that of Egypt. JEA Director-General Mohammad Arafat said Saturday.

Mr. Arafat said a \$70 million contract to lay 10 kilometres of submarine cable linking the power grid at Aqaba with the Egyptian network at Taba was given to a Norwegian company and another contract for 10 kilometres of overhead cable was granted to a Turkish company.

Mr. Arafat did not give the amount of the contract to the Turkish company but said it was "a small project."

Other sources identified the Norwegian company as Al Cotel Kable Norge and the Turkish company as Sezai-Turkes Fezyl-Akaya.

The Turkish company's contract was worth \$1.5 million and limited to the civil works and towers, the sources said.

Japan's Itochu Corporation will supply the insulated wire for the overhead cable and Austria's Berndorf-FAS will supply conductors. The cost of these components was not immediately known.

The contract for Al Cotel was a Turkey project under which the company undertook all work related to the submarine cable.

Work on the linkage is expected to be completed in the first half of 1997, when "the linkage among Middle Eastern networks would take a major leap," Mr. Arafat told the Jordan Times.

The Jordan-Egypt link is expected to cost about \$100 million and is partly financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development under an agreement signed by the government and the fund.

Part of the loan from the fund will be channelled to an expansion project at the Aqaba Thermal Power Station.

Mr. Arafat noted that Jordan was working on expanding its linkage with the network of Syria, which in turn is being connected with that of Turkey as part of a five-country agreement signed early this year grouping Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Turkey.

Work on the Iraqi part of the project will start only after the international sanctions on that country are lifted or eased to allow the linkage.

In the meantime, Egypt is working on setting up a 300-kilometre linkage between Taba and Suez and also on linking its power grid with that of Libya as the last part of a network that stretches all the way to Morocco.

"By the year 1997, the Middle Eastern linkage will be connected with Europe and Asia," said Mr. Arafat, adding that Morocco's power grid was to be connected with that of Spain across the Strait of Gibraltar.

Simultaneously, the Turkish part of the regional link-up will also have a European extension to complete the Middle Eastern-European circuit, he said.

In the Gulf meanwhile, the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have been discussing a power linkage project, and the United Arab Emirates have taken the lead in connecting its power grid with neighbouring states.

The GCC link with the rest of the Middle Eastern network could come either through a Saudi-Jordanian link or a Turkish-Iraqi-Saudi link depending on the course of political developments related to Iraq's relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

At some point, Israel would be brought into the regional network. Egypt and Israel are working on linking their networks across the Sinai.

Jordan and Israel have agreed to link their networks as part of the measures outlined in the Washington Declaration of July 25. However, no real progress has been made in discussions on the issue during the bilateral negotiations that followed the signing of the declaration.

At the same time, since the overall linkage of the networks would need close feasibility studies and a lengthy process, the two sides have agreed in principle to have a "temporary" linkage between the networks of Aqaba and Eilat, negotiators said.

Detailed information on the plan was not immediately available.

Public universities accept 8,643 students

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian state universities will accept 8,643 new students from around the Kingdom out of a total of 21,000 applicants for the new academic year 1994-95, according to Mohammad Maqusi, head of the coordinating committee for acceptance and enrolment in these universities.

In a statement Saturday, Dr. Maqusi said that in addition to these students, the public universities will accept students from other Arab countries including the West Bank at a rate of 10 per cent of the total number of accepted students for this year.

Twenty-six per cent of the total number of accepted students will be enrolled from special lists including that provided by the Jordanian Armed Forces and the Ministry of Education, and students in governorates and those excelling in sports.

According to Dr. Maqusi, the University of Jordan will accept 3,262 Jordanian students, Yarmouk University 2,587, Muta University 1,490, Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) 1,085, and the Amman Applied Engineering College 219.

The lowest Tawjihi grade average accepted at Muta University was 76.9 per cent, at Yarmouk 78.6, JUST 81.3 and the University of Jordan, 79.4 per cent, according to Dr. Maqusi.

He said that 187 Tawjihi students accepted at these universities had average grades above 95 per cent, 3,687 had above 85 per cent and 6,897 had above 80 per cent.

Government exempts drug industry inputs from sales tax

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has decided to exempt all inputs in the pharmaceutical industry from the sales tax which was introduced in June this year.

A statement following a regular Cabinet session Saturday said that the decision was taken in order to encourage local drug industry and support their efforts to compete with other firms in the local and international markets as well as ensure reasonable drug prices especially for the limited-income groups.

Minister of Finance Sami Gammooh had recommended to the Council of Ministers that the government exempt Jordanian drug manufacturing companies from the sales tax imposed on inputs used in the industry whether made in Jordan or imported from other countries.

According to Nizar Jaradneh, a leading pharmaceutical industrialist in Jordan, the Kingdom currently has six drug manufacturing companies and four factories manufacturing veterinary products.

These companies export a total of 75 per cent of their production to Arab and foreign nations and earn around JD56 million annually, he said.

The Cabinet, at its regular meeting Saturday, also raised to 100 per cent, from 50 per cent, the rate of exemptions from income tax on Jordanian services exported to other countries.

The statement said that the following services will be entirely exempt from income tax: computer, feasibility studies, legal, investment, engineering consultancy and auditing services.

It said the decision was taken in light of the expected beneficial effects these services will have on the national economy.

The government will consider all elected municipal councils and municipal committees dissolved as of September 1, 1994, the date when the Municipalities Law expires.

The Cabinet has decided to form temporary municipal committees headed by public officials to run the affairs of the 191 municipalities for one year, after which general municipal elections will be conducted.

The Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister Thonqan Hindawi, agreed to the conversion of the ownership of Nadim Hospital in Madaba from the private sector to the Health Ministry and authorised the finance minister to sign the agreement.

The Cabinet also decided to appoint Hassem Shboul as secretary general of Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), to succeed Abdul Aziz Wishah who has been transferred to the prime minister's office serving as an advisor.



Royal Jordanian (RJ) President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi (at the head of the table) Saturday chairs an area managers meeting at RJ headquarters

RJ president says airline intends to replace Tristars

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nader Dahabi, President and Chief Executive Officer of Royal Jordanian (RJ) Saturday said that the national airline was seriously considering replacing its Tristar planes used on Far East routes.

Addressing the first session of a two-day meeting by RJ area managers in the Far East to discuss marketing issues, Mr. Dahabi said that RJ was currently considering two replacement options to its fleet of five Tristars.

A senior RJ official declined to name the aircraft under consideration, saying that the airline management was still studying the subject.

In light of a new era of peace in the region, RJ will fall under increased demand for operations along its Far East routes and was expecting expansion on these routes, hence the need to acquire modern aircrafts, said Mr. Dahabi.

The aim of the area managers meeting was to set plans for improving the performance of marketing and sales and discussing new developments in the air travel market and their effects on RJ sales, said Mr. Dahabi.

RJ's Far East routes include flights to Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Noting that the airline's operations so far fall 15 per cent short of the set plan, Mr. Dahabi said increased efforts are required especially as RJ expects further expansion of its operations on these routes.

RJ Vice President for Marketing and Sales Majdi Sabri told the meeting that RJ's operations in the first six months of 1994 resulted in 9.8 per cent increase in revenues compared to the same period last year.

Dr. Sabri said that the coming era of peace would create strong competition among world airlines and would boost tourism and air travel in general.

According to Zuhair Dahman, RJ vice-president for administration and purchase, a meeting will be organised early next month for all parties involved in the privatisation process being studied by RJ.

Samer Majali, RJ vice-president for airport services, reviewed the airline's plans to control take off schedules and improve services at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA).



Panelists address the opening session of a three-day meeting on intellectual property rights (Petra photo)

Protection of intellectual property is on the agenda of WIPO meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has been a member of this organisation since 1972, has enacted special legislations and provided the essential elements that ensure protection for intellectual and industrial property.

Dr. Arpad Bogesch, WIPO director general, addressed the opening session noting that training of human resources acquires priority among the organisation's programmes for Third World countries.

WIPO is ready to continue cooperation with these countries provided they enact laws that ensure protection for intellectual and industrial property, said Dr. Bogesch.

He said that WIPO has been closely cooperating with Arab states in training programmes, thus enabling them to pursue development schemes.

Transfer of modern technology to the Third World, which became a specialised agency of the United Nations in 1974, aims to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world through cooperation among states and, where appropriate, with other international organisations.

Intellectual property comprises two main branches: industrial property, chiefly inventions, trademarks and designs; and copyright, chiefly literary, musical, artistic, photographic and cinematographic works.

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing nine Jordanian professional associations heads for Baghdad Monday with a modest shipment of medicines for a show of solidarity with the Iraqi people in the face of the continued U.N.-imposed sanctions, according to Kamal Nasser, president of the Jordan Bar Association (JBA), who is leading the group.

During the several day visit to Iraq, the delegation members will meet with heads of Iraqi professional associations, representatives of other organisations and senior officials to renew the Jordanian associations' support for Iraq, said Dr. Nasser in a statement Saturday.

"We are making the trip because of our belief in and demand for an end to the embargo now that Iraq has complied with all the U.N. Security Council requirements," said Dr. Nasser.

During the trip, the delegation will tour the various installations and institutions that have been reconstructed after the Gulf war, and address a press conference on Thursday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

IDB loans JD7m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) approved 29 loans totalling JD7.065 million to local industrial, tourism and services schemes in the second quarter of 1994. Some of these loans will go to finance new projects including the manufacturing of wooden furniture, plastic products, spare parts for washing machines, tissue paper and metal furniture, as well as the establishment of dairies. An IDB statement said that the bank had granted a total of 68 loans totalling JD15.4 million since the start of 1994 compared to 74 loans totalling JD13.6 million in the same period of 1993.

Brunei civil aviation team to arrive for talks

AMMAN — A delegation from the Brunei Civil Aviation Authority is due in Amman Sunday for talks with Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials on air transport cooperation. The head of the Brunei team to the talks is CAA Director General Ahmad Jweiber who said that the Brunei team will spend several days in Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

★ Film entitled "The Rocketeer" at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Middle Eastern System" by Mr. Farid Abdul Karim at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

★ Poetry recital by Iraqi poet Dunya Mickail at the Association of Jordanian Writers at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition entitled "Time-2 Space 1" by Samia Zarou at 2nd Al Fuman of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman. Also showing "Permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Fahad Qaysi at Ad'ad Art Gallery (Tel. 819861).

★ Exhibition of abstract art by Ghaleb Nahl and International Yass Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 639350).

★ Children's school needs exhibition at the Amman International Auto Exhibition, Airport Road (12:00 noon-11:00 p.m. (Tel. 714211)).

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhais (10:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.). (Tel. 720677).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfal Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).

Cuba holds door open for talks on refugee crisis with U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States clamped new economic sanctions on Cuba and prepared to convert its naval base on the island into a sprawling detention camp as Havana held open the door for talks aimed at resolving its refugee crisis.

Rough weather and heavy seas cut the number of Cuban boat people in the wind-whipped Florida Straits Friday. Only 414 were picked up between midnight Thursday (0400 GMT Friday) and Friday evening compared to more than 3,000 on a single day earlier in the week, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

But the number was expected to soar once the weather cleared, and the U.S. military ordered more than 2,000 civilians to evacuate its naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to make room for a tent city capable of holding up to 60,000 refugees.

Cuba repeated its willingness to negotiate with the United States on the boat people crisis, even if talks were initially only on immigration issues — the only point president Bill Clinton has said Washington is willing to discuss with Havana.

Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina told a news conference during a visit to Bolivia Friday that Havana "wouldn't refuse" if the United States wanted to discuss immigration without bringing in other issues.

Mr. Robaina was quoted earlier by the Cuban news

agency Prensa Latina as saying that while Cuba believed a solution lay in broader discussions, Havana did not object to starting with the immigration issue.

Mr. Clinton has rebuffed President Fidel Castro's position that the exodus of Cubans in the last few weeks has been caused by wider U.S. policy decisions toward Cuba, including its longstanding economic embargo.

Mr. Castro indicated Wednesday that while a real solution to the problem would be a general overhaul of U.S. policy toward Cuba, Havana would not object to starting with talks on immigration issues.

Senior Clinton administration officials were quoted in Saturday's editions of the Los Angeles Times as saying that formal U.S.-Cuba negotiations were still far from certain.

But they said the two sides were discussing the prospect and could come to a decision within the next few days. The U.S. Treasury Department activated a presidential order Friday stopping Cuban-Americans from sending cash to their relatives in Cuba. Officials planned to watch banks and shops specializing in wiring money to Cuba in Miami's Little Havana to enforce the order.

The United States also moved to curtail charter flights to the island. Officials estimate Cuban Americans send about \$50 million a year to Cuba and travel adds

another \$100 million.

Mr. Clinton ordered the stepped-up sanctions to punish Mr. Castro for failing to halt the exodus of Cuban boat people to the United States.

U.S. officials say a halt in remittances could deprive the cash-starved Cuban economy of as much as \$500 million a year.

Last week, Mr. Clinton also reversed a 28-year-old policy of automatically receiving all Cubans who sought asylum, saying boat people would be turned away from the United States and held at Guantanamo indefinitely.

U.S. officials said more than 11,000 Cubans were already at Guantanamo Friday or on ships waiting to be unloaded there. About 14,500 Haitian refugees are also being held at the base.

Admiral Henry Mauz, commander in chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, issued the order to evacuate civilians from Guantanamo late Friday, military officials told a group of Defence Department pool reporters.

Navy officials said 2,236 family members of military, civilian and contract workers would be evacuated by air beginning Wednesday.

More would leave later if refugees continued to pour into the base on the eastern tip of Cuba which the U.S. has maintained since the early 1900s, the officials said.

Nearly 17,000 Cuban refugees have been plucked from small fishing boats and

makeshift rafts in August, far more than the total of 9,513 Cubans rescued off Florida for the decade between 1983 and 1993.

Navy Lieutenant Commander Joe Quimby, a spokesman at Guantanamo, said the civilians were being pulled off the base because of the need to divert electricity and desalinated water to the tent city, which Mr. Castro has called a "concentration camp."

Comm. Quimby also said the refugees could pose a security problem in the future, but he did not elaborate.

Undeterred by bad weather and U.S. warnings that they can't enter the United States, many Cubans vowed to leave this economically depressed island nation the first chance they get.

"We're going," said Carlos Fonseca, a 27-year-old artisan who said he and two friends were just waiting for the weather to clear.

"My house is empty. I sold the TV, the refrigerator, the stove and a mattress," he said, to buy the raft he intends to paddle to Florida.

Mr. Fonseca and hundreds of others planned to leave even though the Clinton administration says it will no longer grant automatic asylum to Cubans who reach U.S. shores.

To relieve pressure on his own government, Mr. Castro stopped trying to prohibit illegal immigration.



An exhausted Cuban refugee rests in an inflatable boat after being rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard ship Grand Isle. The number of rafters attempting to cross the Florida Straits has dropped because of bad weather (AFP photo)

Mahathir tells Murayama to step up aid instead of apologising

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Japanese Premier

Tomichi Murayama was told by his Malaysian host Saturday to stop apologising for his country's war crimes and show remorse by expanding aid to South East Asia, a Japanese spokesman said.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, during 145 minutes of talks with Mr. Murayama, also pledged to back Japan's entry into the U.N. Security Council to enable Tokyo play a more active role in maintaining Asian peace, stability and prosperity.

"Mahathir could not understand why Japan keeps on apologising and apologising for its wartime crimes committed almost 50 years ago," Japanese government spokesman Kishichiro Amai told journalists after the talks.

"He said it was more important to take lessons from the past and build on a better

future," he added.

Mr. Mahathir told Mr. Murayama he would not encourage Malaysians to ask Japan for compensation for crimes committed almost half a century ago, when Kuala Lumpur had not even thought of asking redress from its former British colonial rulers.

"Mr. Murayama had no time to respond to Mahathir's remarks as he was rushing off to have an audience with Malaysia's King," Tuanku Ja'far Abdul Rahman, said Mr. Amai.

Mr. Murayama flew in late Friday with a 30-member delegation for a three-day visit on the third leg of an eight-day tour of four South East Asian countries, with Japan's World War II aggression overshadowing the tour.

He earlier visited the Philippines and Vietnam, and was to leave here for Singapore early Sunday.

While in the Philippines, where women forced to work as sex slaves for Japanese troops demanded compensation, Mr. Murayama vowed to tell Japanese youth the truth about the war.

In Vietnam, Mr. Murayama expressed remorse for wartime atrocities and colonial rule to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, who said the Vietnamese had "closed the door on the past" and now wanted to develop better relations with Japan.

Japan invaded Malaysia through Thailand, then Siam, in December 1941 and advanced down the peninsula, capturing the fortress of Singapore some three months later.

The civilian death toll while Japan overran vast areas of Asia is estimated at up to two million in Indochina, 1.1 million in the Philippines and about 50,000 in Malaysia and Singapore, according to Japanese scholars.

Mother reunited with daughter 18 years later

COPENHAGEN (AP) —

The only Danish word Nanna Yassin remembered was "Mor," or mom. Eighteen years after her Sudanese father abducted her from Denmark, Nanna Yassin has been reunited with her mother, Jytte Falkenberg met her daughter last weekend for the first time since her father abducted her to Khartoum, Sudan, in 1976, using a forged passport, the B.T. newspaper said. Ms. Falkenberg, 43, never heard from her daughter after her ex-husband fled with the child to his wealthy family in Sudan. All she had was a photograph of a 6-year-old blond girl with African features. Yassin, 24, was raised as Muslim and taught Arabic, forgetting her mother tongue, except for the word "Mor," the daily said. She lived under the thumb of her father's family until she married last year and moved to Saudi Arabia with her new husband. Through the Danish embassy there, they located her mother. Yassin's husband called his mother-in-law in July from a phone booth in Saudi Arabia, introducing himself in English before passing the phone to Yassin. "For many years, I was in despair and cried many times in my sleep," Falkenberg said. "Words can't describe how good it feels" to be united again, she said. The couple intends to settle in Denmark, where the Foreign Ministry has already given Yassin a Danish passport, the newspaper said.

Museum buys painting by Dutch master

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The Mauritshuis Museum has spent 1.4 million guilders (\$809,248) to buy a painting by the 17th century Dutch master Nicolaas Maes, a museum spokesman said. Museum director Frits Duparc said the painting, "an old lace maker," is a characteristic composition by Maes, who was a student of the famous Dutch master Rembrandt Van Rijn. Maes, 1634-1693, initially followed Rembrandt's lead by painting biblical stories, but later discovered his own talent for depicting domestic scenes and portraits, which became his specialty.

Tony Curtis files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Actor Tony Curtis has filed for divorce from his fourth wife, citing irreconcilable differences. There was no provision for alimony for either party in the papers, filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court. There also was no mention of a division of property. Curtis, 69, and Lisa Deutch Curtis, 32, were wed Feb. 28, 1993. They shared a Los Angeles home and have no children, said publicist Jennifer Walsh. Curtis starred in more than 100 films including "Some Like It Hot." Earlier this year, Curtis underwent heart bypass surgery and lost the son he had with his third wife, ex-model Leslie Allen. Curtis has five other grown children, including actress Jamie Lee Curtis, the daughter of Janet Leigh.

Boiling July boosts beer to heady levels

WIESBADEN, Germany

(AFP) — Germans, already among the world's most enthusiastic beer drinkers, outdid themselves during the July heat wave, the very sober Federal Statistics Office in Wiesbaden reported. It said sales of German beer jumped by 10.9 per cent last month, to a heady 11.2 million hectoliters — up 1.1 million from July last year. To nobody's surprise, 92.6 per cent of the sales were made in Germany.

RSPCA: Body Shop fails animal testing criteria

LONDON (AFP) —

Britain's Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) will encourage shoppers to take their custom from the Body Shop to retailers with "higher ethical standards," said the Guardian Saturday. The organisation said the chain did not meet tougher guidelines it was introducing on animal testing, although Body Shop has campaigned against animal testing.

Clinton: Crime bill shows bipartisanship

EDGARTOWN, Massachusetts

(R) — President Bill Clinton said Saturday the passage by Congress of a \$30 billion crime bill showed Democrats and Republicans can work together, and that they should do so again on health care reform.

"The crime bill shows we can," Mr. Clinton said in his national weekly radio address, taped in Washington Friday just before he left for a summer vacation on the island resort of Martha's Vineyard off the coast of Massachusetts.

The Senate passed the crime bill and sent it to Mr. Clinton for his signature Thursday night after the House of Representatives had pulled it back from limbo and approved it last Sunday.

"It shows that when we put aside the rhetoric and the partisanship, we can solve any issue and meet any challenge. Its narrow victory also shows the damage, the danger that partisanship can bring to our deliberation," he said.

At the same time, Democratic majority leader George Mitchell gave up on plans to keep the Senate in session right through its summer holiday to continue work on stalled health care reform, Mr. Clinton's top domestic priority.

Sen. Mitchell said he and others would continue to work on compromise health care proposals during a two-week recess until Sept. 12. But he conceded for the first time that he cannot get a broad health care reform

through Congress.

"It clearly will not be a bill as comprehensive as I would prefer but there's much that can be done that would represent progress," Sen. Mitchell, a Maine Democrat, said Friday. "I hope that we can, working together, produce a bill that will make substantial progress and he passed this year."

Mr. Clinton tried to inject a note of optimism about the most important project of his presidency, saying already more progress has been made toward health care reform "than ever before."

"Members of both parties are trying hard to work out their differences. And health care will be the first order of business when Congress returns. We have to continue this fight. We have to win it,"

he said.

Amnesty International Friday condemned the expansion of the U.S. federal death penalty in President Clinton's new crime bill as a "major setback for human rights."

The death penalty, now authorised under U.S. federal law for drug-related homicides and murder during aircraft hijacking, will be extended to more than 50 more federal crimes under the bill.

"This extension just adds to the grave concerns we already have about the use of the death penalty in the U.S.A., which is applied disproportionately to the poor, minority groups, the mentally ill or retarded, and those without adequate legal representation," the London-based human rights organisation said.

U.N. observers begin monitoring Haitian border

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic

(Agencies) — International observers gathered at strategic points in the Western Dominican Republic to monitor enforcement of a worldwide trade embargo on neighbouring Haiti, military officials said.

The 88 U.N. observers have established five checkpoints along the 225-mile (360-km) frontier that divides the two nations on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, said Armed Forces Minister Lieutenant General Constantino Matos Villanueva.

The military and civilian observers are to use U.S.-donated helicopters, vehicles and telecommunications equipment to watch for violations of U.N.-imposed trade embargo on Haiti.

The United Nations tightened trade sanctions on Haiti in May to try to force the country's ruling military to cede power to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the popularly elected leader overthrown in a bloody coup almost three years ago.

The Dominican Republic until now has not enforced the embargo and similar punitive economic measures but diplomats hope that will change under the new deal signed by U.S. officials and recently reelected Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer.

Two top U.S. officials are heading to Jamaica next week to consult with Caribbean countries on the formation of a U.N.-sanctioned multinational force for a possible invasion of Haiti, the State Department said Friday.

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Deputy Defence Secretary John Deutch's trip to Jamaica Tuesday was at the invitation of the 13-member Caribbean Community (Caricom), State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said.

They also were to stopover in the Dominican Republic on the way home to discuss efforts to seal Haiti's borders, enforcing a U.N. embargo,



A Haitian woman trains during a rifle handling drill along with male civilian recruits near the Presidential Palace in Port-Au-Prince. The Haitian army continues to recruit civilians as a show of force against a possible U.S.-led invasion (AFP photo)

the spokesman said.

Caricom foreign ministers and heads of military and police forces were meeting in Jamaica to discuss how they can contribute to the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 940, which authorised use of force to oust Haiti's military, McCurry said.

The resolution envisions a two-phase operation under which a multinational force could invade Haiti and seize control. It would be followed by a U.N. mission to keep the peace and retrain the Haitian security forces.

"An item of discussion will be those aspects of the U.N. resolution that deal with the multinational force," said Mr. McCurry. "That will clearly be part of the agenda."

He said U.S. officials would discuss planning for both phases of the operation with the Caribbean officials.

Mr. McCurry said another "useful purpose" of the trip by Mr. Talbott and Mr. Deutch was to show Haiti's military that Washington has not forgotten about them despite the current crisis over

Cuban refugees.

Although the timing of any action is up to President Bill Clinton, one U.S. official said it was "unthinkable" that the Haitian military could still be in power on Dec. 9, when the U.S. president hosts hemispheric leaders at a summit in Miami.

Washington hopes that all the Caricom members would participate in the multinational force, although most would take part only in the post-invasion phase, a State Department official said.

"There have been good, productive discussions with other countries," said Mr. McCurry.

So far, only Argentina has said publicly it would provide troops for an invasion force, but it later withdrew the offer amid criticism in the Argentine Congress.

At a Caricom summit in July, leaders of the English-speaking countries in the Caribbean said they would support a U.N.-sanctions invasion of Haiti only if there were a threat to regional security or evidence of genocide.

Despite the deteriorating

conditions in Haiti, the situation did not warrant an invasion, Jamaican Prime Minister Percival Patterson said at the time.

Meanwhile, Haiti's new de facto Finance Minister pledged Friday to take further measures to rescue the plunging currency as major aid donors met in Paris to decide the country's future without its military leaders.

Cabinet ministers of the military backed government toasted George Henri Filis with imported champagne after he pledged in his inauguration speech to take control of the sanctions-hit economy.

In Paris, World Bank and International Monetary Fund officials and major donors met with representatives of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to chart priorities for the troubled Caribbean nation if its military rulers are removed.

Mr. Filis was appointed cabinet minister late Thursday to replace Rigaud Duplan, who was dismissed by the de facto government after the Haitian gourd fell to record lows against the dollar this week.

World News

Mother reunites with daughter 18 years later

COPENHAGEN (AP) — The only Danish woman, Yassin, remembered "Mor," or mom, for years after her father abducted her from her home in Saudi Arabia. Nanna Yassin, 43, never forgot her mother, Jytte Falkenberg, who met her daughter last weekend for the first time since her father abducted her from her home in Saudi Arabia. Yassin, 43, never forgot her mother, Jytte Falkenberg, who met her daughter last weekend for the first time since her father abducted her from her home in Saudi Arabia. Yassin, 43, never forgot her mother, Jytte Falkenberg, who met her daughter last weekend for the first time since her father abducted her from her home in Saudi Arabia.

Museum buys painting by Dutch master

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Mauritshuis museum has spent 14 million guilders (\$800,248) to buy a painting by the 17th-century Dutch master Nicolaes Maes. The museum's director, J. J. van Rijn, said the painting, "The artist's studio," is a masterpiece of Dutch painting. It depicts a young man, possibly the artist himself, in a studio filled with various objects, including a clock, a mirror, and a landscape. The painting is a fine example of the Dutch Golden Age's attention to detail and light.

ny Curtis is for divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tony Curtis has filed for divorce from his wife, Lesley Ann Curtis, after 18 years of marriage. The couple, who have two children, are reportedly on good terms. Curtis, 54, and Curtis, 52, were married in 1976. They have a son, Nicholas, and a daughter, Alexandra. The divorce is expected to be finalized soon.

ng July to beer to y levels

ADEN, Yemen (AP) — Beer prices in Aden, Yemen, have risen to their highest levels in years. The increase is due to a combination of factors, including a shortage of beer and a rise in the price of raw materials. Local residents are complaining about the high prices, which are making it difficult for them to afford their favorite beverage.

Bosnian Serbs vote on peace plan

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serbs streamed to makeshift polling stations Saturday to vote in a referendum on a peace plan. The vote was held in a two-day process, with the first day of voting on Saturday and the second on Sunday. The plan, known as the "Dayton Accords," was drafted by a team of international mediators. It called for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Serbian forces from Bosnia. The vote was held in a tense atmosphere, with many Serbs expressing skepticism about the plan. However, some did vote in support of the agreement.

"I expect the people will reject the plan," said one Serb. "Then we will ask for another map. We expect a new conference, a new peace effort," Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said after voting in Pale, the Serb stronghold outside Sarajevo. Electoral organizers say a million people will vote in 82 polling stations across the country, but independent observers suggest only 750,000 people live in Serb-held Bosnia, nearly half of whom are below voting age. Two years of ethnic war and consequent population movement have left voting lists meaningless. In trenches above Sarajevo groups of soldiers voted by roll-call, not by secret ballot, and gave a unanimous voice for rejection. On the morning of the poll Bosnian Serb leader continued to press their defiant argument on Serb television, the only source of information for most of their people. "If people decide to accept the map, then it would spell capitulation," said the speaker of the Bosnian Serb Assembly Momcilo Krajcinovic. "I believe people will reject it almost unanimously and are aware they will face suffering."

Rwanda leaders intensify reconciliation efforts

KIGALI (R) — Leaders of Rwanda's new government visited the south Saturday to try to persuade Hutu and Tutsi they could live together again despite the horrific bloodshed of recent months. President Pasteur Bizimungu, defence chief Major-General Paul Kagame, Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu and other government officials visited Butare city and surrounding areas to reassure people they were committed to peace. "They preached a message of reconciliation and ethnic harmony. They preached a gospel of forgiveness and tolerance, but they also pledged punishment for those who have caused so much trouble for ordinary Rwandans," a senior official told Reuters in the capital Kigali. Mr. Bizimungu urged Rwandan intellectuals to travel to a zone previously under French military protection to convince refugees to return to their homes and start farming again. Government leaders hope that a reconciliation mission by intellectuals will swell the number of returnees. The Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) government won power after a three-month offensive during which soldiers and militiamen of the Hutu regime carried out a campaign of genocide mainly targeting Tutsis. U.N. officials estimate up to one million people may have been killed. At least two million refugees fled over the borders into Zaire and other neighboring countries following the RPF victory in July, fearing Tutsi reprisals. Soldiers and officials of the defeated government have stoked the fears of refugees, telling them they should stay in the refugee camps because they will be slaughtered if they return. The United Nations said last week that although some killings were reported there was no evidence of a systematic revenge campaign by the RPF. On Friday, the U.N. refugee agency accused the Hutu leadership of trying to institute a "reign of terror" in Rwandan camps in Zaire. "It is easy for them to do this. These people have tasted blood and have done a lot of things with impunity," United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Fernando Del Mundo said. In the Zairean border town of Gombe, aid workers said there were few signs of any mass return to Rwanda. Another UNHCR spokesman, Ray Wilkinson, estimated repatriation had fallen to 3,000 a day from a previous 5,000. The total number of Hutus who had opted to return home was only 140,000, he added. Aid officials say many Hutu wishing to return have been frightened into staying by Hutu militiamen who accuse those thinking of leaving of taking sides with the RPF. The death toll in the crowded refugee camps remained intolerably high, aid workers said. Pneumonia, with seasonal rain making the plight of the



A Rwandan refugee, armed with a machete, walks past a boy carrying firewood at the Mugunga camp, west of the Zairean town of Gombe (AFP photo)

refugees even worse, was becoming the latest killer to stalk the squalid camps, they added. Mr. Wilkinson said the death toll of 300 a day was twice that in refugee camps set up after a similar exodus from Cambodia in 1979 after a Vietnamese invasion ousted the Khmer Rouge. At the height of last month's cholera epidemic, several thousand people were dying each day. With clean water and medical facilities now available, cholera is under control and the rate has fallen among the 800,000 refugees around the town. But aid workers say drug-resistant dysentery is still killing people. Since the start of the mass exodus into eastern Zaire in mid-July, an estimated 46,000 people have died. To Kigali Saturday, a U.N. military spokesman said the first 115 Zambian reinforcements for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda had arrived in the capital. The Zambians will take over in the former French protection zone from the Ghanaian troops now stationed there. Rwanda's former government army, accused of carrying out a campaign of genocide before its defeat by rebel forces, has regrouped and is training at a camp in eastern Zaire, the new prime minister and a U.N. military spokesman said Friday. "We have reports Zairean authorities are assisting former Rwanda government forces in a camp some 60 kilometres from the town of Bukavu," Major John-Guy Plante told reporters.



A Rwandan refugee, armed with a machete, walks past a boy carrying firewood at the Mugunga camp, west of the Zairean town of Gombe (AFP photo)

Angola, rebels report big battles in diamond area

LUANDA (R) — Government media said Saturday Angola forces were advancing on UNITA positions in the country's diamond-producing northeast region, where rebels said earlier they had seized a strategic town. State daily Jornal De Angola said government forces were also near the northern oil enclave of Cabinda, held by UNITA and FLEC separatists. "UNITA soldiers are being pushed back towards the northern border with Zaire," the paper said. It made no mention of Cabinda town, which UNITA said it took this week in a battle it said killed 73 government soldiers. A UNITA statement faxed to Reuters in Lisbon Friday said Cabinda, in the Luanda South province, which lies southeast of the main mining centre of Cufunfo, had served as a crucial support base for the government in their fight to control of the diamond-rich area. "After eight hours of fighting on Aug. 22, (UNITA forces) captured Cabinda. This is the only logistical support base for the MPLA offensive against Cufunfo," a statement signed by UNITA Chief of Staff General "Ben Ben" Arlindo Chenda Pena said. "(Government) forces suffered 73 confirmed fatalities. The rest of the garrison was pushed into a mine field, which they had laid themselves, where a large number were in agony until they died," it added. The report could not be independently confirmed. The Luanda daily said heavy fighting was also reported around the town of Cufunfo in diamond-rich Luanda Norte province. "UNITA still holds areas of small scale mining at Chitolo, Lolo, Mbila, Chingulo and Cuilo," the paper said. Its report too could not be confirmed independently. The government launched a campaign earlier this year to drive UNITA out of Luanda Norte in order to stop the rebels mining diamonds there to finance their war effort. In July, the army recaptured Cufunfo, which controls the Cunago Valley and ones accounted for about 90 per cent of Angola's diamond production, but UNITA claimed this week they still held part of the town. Last year, UNITA smuggled out Cufunfo's entire diamond output, estimated to

have been worth up to \$200 million. Unofficial estimates put Angola's total diamond production last year at around \$250-million, most of which leaked north into Zaire from UNITA-held areas in Luanda Norte. UNITA funds most of its war effort with diamonds. UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) reported heavy government casualties last week. UNITA is also widely believed to operate in conjunction with one or more of the FLEC (Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda) factions inside Cabinda. UNITA has been fighting a bush war against the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) since independence from Portugal in 1975.



Refugees, U.N. soldiers and Croatian police gather at the border crossing between Bosnia and Croatia at Turanj village, where several thousand refugees from western Bosnia wait to cross the Croatian border (AFP photo)

tion to the crisis, would find themselves on the frontline," he said. Mr. Milosevic's split with Bosnian Serb leaders has left ordinary people in Serbia confused and divided over whether their ethnic kin across the border should reject yet another peace plan. Bosnian Serbs began voting Saturday in a two-day

referendum on the peace plan drawn up by major powers. "It's a very difficult question, whether they should accept the plan or not," said a middle-aged saleswoman at a furniture store in Belgrade. Zorica Uskovic, 34, said she could not blame the Bosnian Serbs if they reject the peace plan as expected. She was angered by Mr. Milosevic's decision to cut off ties with the Bosnian Serbs to force them to accept the peace deal which would divide their former Yugoslav republic roughly in half between Serbs and their Muslim-Croat adversaries. "I think it's an insane decision by Milosevic to close the border. I don't know what

Expelled Albanians swamp border town

KAKAVIJA, Albania (R) — Albanian authorities Saturday used military trucks and private buses to take home thousands of Albanian immigrants expelled from Greece. The Albanian government said Greece had deported 22,000 illegal Albanian immigrants since Aug. 15 in retaliation for the trial in Tirana of five ethnic Greek Albanians accused of spying for Athens. Some 5,200 crossed the border from Greece on Friday alone. "We mobilised trucks from a nearby military unit and used private buses to deal with the unusual influx of immigrants," borders station chief Pelivan Buzheri told Reuters. Kakavija border point near the southern town of Gjirokastra, 300 kilometres south of Tirana, was swamped by more than 3,400 Albanians Friday. Most were on their way to their home town by Saturday afternoon. The flow eased later Saturday with only some 200 people arriving at the border town from Greece. Some of the immigrants spoke of abuse by Greek police and one man said they had confiscated the shoes of all the people on his bus travelling to the Albanian border. "Police caught six of us for deportation but they did not harm us," Napoon Tice, 38, said on arriving at Kakavija. "All they said was 'go back and kill' (Albanian President Sali) Berisha and then you can come here again."

Malaysia police crack down on Al Arqam

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian police have arrested 13 suspected members of the banned Islamic Al Arqam sect since the government declared the group a danger to public order. The state news agency Bernama reported Saturday. The Home Affairs Ministry declared the movement unlawful Friday, clearing the way for police to act against the sect's estimated 10,000 hard-core followers in Malaysia. Five Al Arqam followers were arrested Friday in a Kuala Lumpur suburb as they tried to lodge a police report against the national police chief for calling the sect a security threat. In addition, Bernama said four people were arrested in both the states of Malacca and Negeri Sembilan Friday on charges of distributing Al Arqam leaflets. Police Commissioner Mohammad Said Awang said the movement was banned under Malaysia's Societies Act, which imposes a three-month jail sentence and a 1,000 ringgit (\$393) fine on members of an unlawful society. Meanwhile four more Indonesian provinces, including the special territory of Jakarta, have banned the Al Arqam, the Antara News Agency said Saturday. Basrief Haniff, spokesman for the attorney general's office, was quoted as saying prosecutors from the four provinces had ordered Al Arqam to cease activities in their area. The provinces are Jakarta, Central and East Java and West Nusa Tenggara in eastern Indonesia. Similar action has been taken by the regional governments of North and West Sumatra, West Java, Riau and Aceh.

Carlos reportedly planned to kidnap Barbie

PARIS (R) — "Carlos the Jackal" considered kidnapping Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie from his French prison on a decade ago with the help of Jacques Verges, then Barbie's lawyer and now his own, a French newspaper said Saturday. In the latest report on the alleged relationship between Carlos and his lawyer, Le Parisien said the international guerrilla bopped Barbie would disclose embarrassing information about relations between Western governments and former Nazis. It said East German secret services strongly opposed the plan and it was dropped. The Venezuelan-born guerrilla appointed Mr. Verges as his chief lawyer after he was spirited from Sudan to a French prison two weeks ago to be probed over a 1982 car-bomb attack in Paris. Since then, the French press has published a stream of reports based on files of the former East German secret police Stasi alleging that Mr. Verges had been a member of the Carlos' group in the early 1980s. Mr. Verges was not immediately available for comment on the report of Le Parisien. He has earlier dismissed the Stasi files as lacking any credibility and said allegations against him were aimed at forcing him to drop Carlos' defence. Le Parisien published excerpts of a letter in English purportedly sent to Carlos in 1983 by his deputy Johannes Weinreich and found in Stasi files. "The Barbie affair is very interesting," the letter said. The newspaper said Carlos wanted Mr. Verges, mentioned under the codenames "Herzog" and "Gabriel," to provide information on how to kidnap his client from prison in the central city of Lyon. "As Carlos explains in instructions to Weinreich, the idea is to abduct and question Barbie ... his disclosures, cleverly publicised, will compromise Western regimes and denounce their relationship with war criminals," Le Parisien said. A former Nazi Gestapo chief in Lyon, Barbie was handed over to France by Bolivia in 1983. Mr. Verges defended him at his 1987 trial. Barbie was given a life sentence for crimes against humanity and died in prison in 1991.

United States and other western countries may tighten technology restrictions on Pakistan following Mr. Sharif's disclosure. Mr. Leghari said Mr. Sharif, who was prime minister for 30 months until July 1993, had no access to current information on Pakistan's nuclear programme and should not make statements which could be exploited by the country's enemies. "I think it is an unfortunate statement because it is not based on reality," he said. Mr. Sharif held a rally in Kashmir Tuesday that Pakistan had an atomic bomb and any attack on it by India would set off a nuclear holocaust. Pakistan officials insist that it can make nuclear bombs, but has decided not to. India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, also denies it has a nuclear arsenal. Neither country has signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, though Pakistan says it will if India does. Mr. Sharif has accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of being soft towards India over disputed Kashmir and of trying to roll back Pakistan's nuclear programme under U.S. pressure. His assertion that Pakistan is nuclear-armed has won praise from hardline nationalists who believe Islamabad has nothing to lose by claiming membership of the world's nuclear club. Mr. Sharif's critics say he has betrayed the national interest, wrecking a policy of calculated ambivalence on the nuclear issue pursued by several previous governments, including his own.

Pakistan needs nuclear energy — president

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani President Farooq Leghari, denying opposition leader Nawaz Sharif's claim that Pakistan has nuclear weapons, said Saturday his country needed nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. "If France can produce 80 per cent of its electricity from nuclear energy why cannot Pakistan also consider exploiting this renewable source of energy?" he said at a solar energy workshop. Pakistan imports two-thirds of its oil needs and its electricity output is about 2,000 megawatts less than demand. Mr. Leghari said Islamic countries should pool resources for research into renewable energy sources because technology embargoes imposed by the West were "going to get worse." Pakistani commentators have voiced fears that the

United States and other western countries may tighten technology restrictions on Pakistan following Mr. Sharif's disclosure. Mr. Leghari said Mr. Sharif, who was prime minister for 30 months until July 1993, had no access to current information on Pakistan's nuclear programme and should not make statements which could be exploited by the country's enemies. "I think it is an unfortunate statement because it is not based on reality," he said. Mr. Sharif held a rally in Kashmir Tuesday that Pakistan had an atomic bomb and any attack on it by India would set off a nuclear holocaust. Pakistan officials insist that it can make nuclear bombs, but has decided not to. India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, also denies it has a nuclear arsenal. Neither country has signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, though Pakistan says it will if India does. Mr. Sharif has accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of being soft towards India over disputed Kashmir and of trying to roll back Pakistan's nuclear programme under U.S. pressure. His assertion that Pakistan is nuclear-armed has won praise from hardline nationalists who believe Islamabad has nothing to lose by claiming membership of the world's nuclear club. Mr. Sharif's critics say he has betrayed the national interest, wrecking a policy of calculated ambivalence on the nuclear issue pursued by several previous governments, including his own.

Fighting stalls Cambodia hostage talks

PHNOM PENH (R) — Negotiations to free three Western hostages held by Khmer Rouge guerrillas have stalled amid reports of renewed fighting around the rebels' southern stronghold, a senior government official said Saturday. "We haven't had any fresh news for two or three days because our contact group cannot get in," Secretary of State for Information Khieu Kanharith said. He did not elaborate. Khmer Rouge radio said Saturday that government forces had launched a major attack against the rebel stronghold, days before the Aug. 30 deadline set by the guerrillas for the hostage drama to be resolved. "On Aug. 25, 1994, the two heads began a large scale campaign at the Phnom Vor (Vine Mountain) area," rebel radio said in a report monitored in Phnom Penh. "Two heads" is a Khmer Rouge term for the Cambodian government. The Khmer Rouge broadcast warned that the Phnom Vor Peoh government, the United States and other countries would be responsible if the captives were killed. It said the Cambodian government had planned to use "whatever means necessary to eliminate people and resistance in the Phnom Vor

area even if this could lead to the deaths of the three foreigners." "The two heads and Communist Yuon (Vietnam) and its allies must take complete responsibility for all consequences stemming from this campaign now and for the future," the broadcast said. Mark Slater, 28, a Briton; Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, of France; and David Wilson, 29, from Australia, were taken hostage on July 26 after a train ambush in which 13 people were killed. They are believed to be held at a Khmer Rouge stronghold known as Vine Mountain, about 150 kilometres south of Phnom Penh.

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Partner in future role

THE ONE-day state visit of Turkish President Suleiman Demirel to Jordan acquires an added significance in light of the progress on the peace front between the Arabs and Israel.

His Majesty the King and the Turkish leader will no doubt discuss the Washington Declaration and the latest developments in the peace process, and will share thoughts on the shape of the future in the region. Turkey is a very important regional power not only in geopolitical terms but also in economic terms. Suffice it to recall that the solutions of the deep water problems in the area cannot be expected to be reached without Turkey's participation and contribution. The kind of economic growth that is projected to materialise in the Middle East would no doubt involve Turkey as well.

On the bilateral level, Amman and Ankara have always enjoyed the best of relations. His Majesty King Hussein had paid several state visits to Turkey to cement these growing relations, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has been as keen to build on what has already been achieved. We in Jordan continue to view Turkey as a key regional power that has a pivotal role to play in consolidating stability and security in this part of the world. The geographic proximity of Turkey to both the Arab World and Europe makes it an important bridge for greater links between this region and Europe.

All these happy developments in the Turkish-Jordanian relations do not prosper in a vacuum but rather in the rich common religious and cultural traditions that bind the Turkish and Arab peoples as a whole. On the political front, Turkey has steadfastly defended Arab rights within the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is, hopefully, being resolved once and for all. With regard to Iraq, Ankara has been in the forefront of the countries that are calling for relaxing the sanctions on that beleaguered Arab Gulf state in a bid to normalise international and regional relations with it. The full stability of the region cannot be expected to be attained in isolation from Baghdad.

Turkey is opening some doors in that direction and it deserves to be commended for this initiative.

Much more can of course be done to make the regional story a real success. For now, however, we are both confident and hopeful that the visit of the Turkish president, and the Crown Prince's visit to Turkey, will be two important links in the chain to achieve that success.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH THE end of the naval blockade on Aqaba and the interception of Aqaba-bound ships, Jordan feels like a nightmare had ended. Indeed said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday, the Jordanian people felt that the siege on their port, which has been in place since August 1990, was meant as a tool to punish them for their nationalist and principled stand vis-a-vis foreign intervention in Arab affairs, the paper said. It said the siege that cost the country a fortune was used as to exercise pressure on the Kingdom and force it to change its stand and accept foreign military intervention in Arab affairs. The siege was a penalty that Jordan had to pay for being supportive of the Iraqi brothers in the face of aggression and for the Kingdom's condemnation of this aggression and its sympathy with the Iraqi people, added the paper. Lifting the siege on Aqaba, said the paper, is a national achievement which would not be complete before the end of the U.N.-imposed embargo on the Iraqi people.

THE INFUX of Cuban refugees to the United States has placed Washington face-to-face with a new crisis for which it has no solution, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Washington's siege of Cuba and its sanctions against Haiti, North Korea, Libya and Iraq has achieved nothing except more hatred for the United States and more problems for the American people, said the columnist. The embargo on Iraq, which Washington insists on maintaining, has not given the Kuwaitis any sense of security nor has it relieved the Turks from their financial burdens. But it has definitely caused damage to the economies of Europe, Jordan and the Palestinians, added the writer. By opening the door for the Cubans to emigrate Fidel Castro has swamped the United States with unwanted Cubans, said the writer. He said that American policy of starving nations and imposing sanctions against regimes has clearly failed to achieve any fruitful result.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Measuring the pulse of the people

ACCORDING TO a public opinion survey conducted between Aug. 18-20 by the Centre for Strategic Studies in the University of Jordan, some 80.2 per cent of the Jordanians were found to support the peace process in general and the Washington Declaration in particular. Around three quarters of the population believe that Jordan will recover through peace all its rights in land, water, security and refugees. 82.5 per cent expect the economy to improve considerably.

At the outset, I should declare my full confidence in the public opinion surveys conducted from time to time by the Centre for Strategic Studies. Those surveys are perfectly scientific. The purpose behind them is to find out the facts and help the decision makers see the situation as it is. The centre has never used surveys to influence public opinion instead of just testing the water and measuring the pulse of the people.

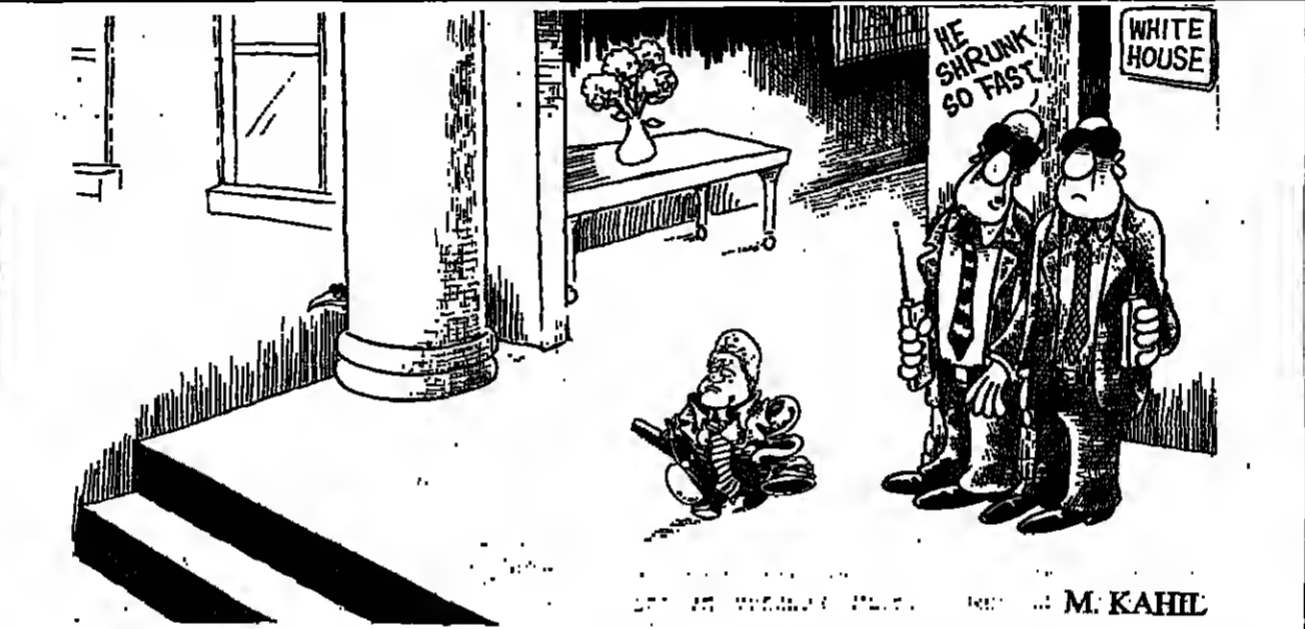
Of course, the Centre for Strategic Studies can publish a pre-cooked survey, but if it does, it can cheat us only once and then lose its credibility forever. Credibility is the essence of the centre, without which it will lose justification for its very existence. We know for sure that the Centre's Director Mustafa Hamarneh would risk his head rather than risking his own credibility or that of the centre. Therefore we read the survey with respect and trust.

If there is a question mark that is worth looking at, it is the idea that the positive results arrived at by the survey may have been the reason why the survey findings were made public. There is a real doubt that, in the opposite direction, the whole survey may be kept in confidence and not released to the public. To close this possible gap, it is recommended that the centre should announce in advance that it is going to make a public opinion survey. This announcement should serve as an implied commitment to reveal the findings of the survey, no matter whether they were favourable or otherwise, from the government view point.

Contrary to speculations, the results of the survey did not produce a surprise. It only confirmed what is obvious — that over 80 per cent of the Jordanian people do in fact support the peace process, the Washington Declaration and ending the state of war with Israel against Israel's recognition of Jordan's rights in land, water, security and the return of displaced Palestinians. Such a historical deal became thinkable and acceptable after reaching agreement between Israel and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, which settled the Palestinian question, which is the core of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

It may be that the questionnaire confused the public regarding possible compensation of refugees and displaced Palestinians. Financial compensation is feasible for the refugees of 1948 if they were allowed to return to their homes in Israel but preferred not to exercise this right because they don't want to live under Israeli rule. However, compensation for the displaced Palestinians of 1967 must be out of question, because they should be given the right to return to their towns, villages, or camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They deserve no compensation if they decline to take up the opportunity to claim their homeland where their property in the West Bank and Gaza will be at their disposal under Palestinian rule.

Finally, we should express our genuine fear that the ratio of peace supporters may decline rapidly with time if the peace process was slow and negotiations were unnecessarily prolonged, and if it became evident to the public that Israel has stalled and will meet Jordanian legitimate claims by Israeli false counterclaims, which may extend negotiations for a long time. Stalling by Israel is an option that the balance of power allows Israel to exercise, but in that case, it will be risking to lose the right moment to strike a full peace treaty with Jordan and to break the momentum in Jordanian public opinion which was created mainly by on all-out move initiated by His Majesty King Hussein who was drawing on his huge mutual confidence with his people.



Nationalists emerge from shadows in Romania

By Peter Bale

Reuter

BUCHAREST — The sleeping dogs of nationalism have awoken in Romania to claim a pivotal role in keeping the old communist elite in power in the last East European state where Stalinism's heritage still lingers.

Members of the Xenophobic anti-Hungarian RNUP party took two cabinet posts last week in a reshuffle which exposed how reliant on nationalist support the Party of Social Democracy (PSD) government of Prime Minister Nicolae Ceausescu has become.

Now anti-Semites want a place in government, and opposition parties fear Romania could be sliding into extremism.

"We want to stress the negative consequences of this aberrant symbiosis be-

tween a party which calls itself democrat and a party which the international community has called fascist," said Corneliu Coposu of the National Peasant Party.

Romanian National Unity Party candidates took the farm and communications ministries — crucial to market reforms that should repair the damage wrought by dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

It was the first time that RNUP candidates had officially been given seats at the cabinet table, something Western envoys had warned Mr. Vacaroiu's minority government against.

With just 34 per cent of the seats in Romania's fragmented parliament and facing an increasingly stronger opposition bloc, Mr. Vacaroiu has needed the eight per cent of seats held by the RNUP to survive a handful of no-confidence motions.

Analysts fear the greater influence of the nationalists threatens Romania's delicate ethnic fabric. While Romania is far from becoming another Bosnia, it has its flashpoints.

"The risk is that this will increase the fears of the Hungarian minority that they face an onslaught against their cultural and educational rights," said one Western analyst.

"This can only radicalise Hungarian militants." Despite its new-found status, after several years on the fringe of Romanian politics, the RNUP nationalists insisted they were not dancing for joy at the cabinet posts.

"We did not drink champagne," said RNUP deputy leader and senate vice chairman Ion Gavra.

"There is nothing to celebrate. This is a difficult step which means hard work."

In the past the RNUP has

only flexed its muscles by sniping at the Hungarians in Transylvania's city of Cluj where party boss Gheorghe Funar has suppressed the Hungarian language.

European envoy Max Van der Stoep, high commissioner for minority rights from the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), last week warned that "extremists" put at risk decades of peaceful coexistence in Transylvania.

Horia Rusu, executive president of the 1993 Liberal Party, saw grave risks in the RNUP's influence in government.

"Accepting a chauvinist party in government will in the long term compromise the chances for an historic reconciliation between Romania and Hungary," Mr. Rusu said.

"There is a risk Romania will be isolated more deeply."

Saudi satellite battle is another AWACS affair

The writer directs research on security and arms control at Israel's DESA Centre for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University. The article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

By Gerald M. Steinberg

SAUDI ARABIA's effort to gain access to a highly accurate photo-satellite from the United States may trigger a conflict reminiscent of the 1981 AWACS affair. As in the case of the AWACS, the satellite project involves hundreds of millions of dollars, very sophisticated technology and the potential for major damage to Israel's national security.

The process began in early 1994, when the U.S. government approved a request to license the sale of remote-sensing satellite services and technology. For many years the costs of these systems, such as LADNSAT, grew, while competition from the French SPOT satellite, as well as Russian systems, cut revenues. The U.S. decided to privatise the develop-

ment and operation of these satellites. Three firms, Litton-Itel, G.D.E., and Orbital Sciences, formed a consortium to build the EYEGLASS satellite.

After beginning project development, this consortium found that the market was very limited. The Saudis decided to buy an equity stake, and the firms that are involved, as well as the U.S. Commerce Department, have an intense economic interest in keeping the Saudis in the project.

For Israel, the key issue is the potential strategic impact. With EYEGLASS, objects as small as one metre can be identified. (In comparison, the LANDSAT has a resolution of about 30 square metres).

Although theoretically designed for civilian purposes, EYEGLASS will pick out and monitor planes parked on a runway, tanks, trucks, missiles, etc. It will also be able to monitor construction projects and traffic into and out of buildings. This will give the Saudi army, and other Arab military forces that will have access to the data, the abil-

ity to assess Israeli strengths and weaknesses, and to plan a precision first strike against bases, plants and other facilities.

Defenders of the sale claim that the field of view of this satellite can be restricted through electronic "shutter control," but this is quite difficult, given the geography.

For many years, the Israeli army and Defence Ministry have sought to acquire an orbital capability to monitor activities in Iran and Iraq. The importance of an independent overhead reconnaissance capability was emphasised during the 1991 Gulf war, when Israel realised that the U.S. had almost no information on the Iraqi nuclear weapons programme, and had failed to locate mobile SCUD missile launchers. After the war, Defence Minister Moshe Arens revealed that the Ofek programme was designed to produce a reconnaissance satellite.

Although two test platforms have been launched successfully, an operational satellite will cost hundreds of millions of dollars, and will require a major tech-

nological effort. According to reports, Israeli requests for American assistance and technology, or for cooperation in this area, have all been rebuffed.

The Israeli government can also be expected to note that in making the technology available to the Saudis, the U.S. government is violating pledges not to sell weapons or technology more advanced than that available to Israel. This pledge, which goes back to the era of Nixon and Kissinger, was recently reiterated by U.S. President Clinton in meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin.

In the AWACS case, the sale was eventually approved in a very narrow vote in the U.S. Senate, but only after a costly fight. Now, in the middle of the Middle East peace process, and with no other foreign policy successes, the Clinton administration cannot afford a similar battle. Unless Israel is convinced that the Saudi role in the EYEGLASS project will not pose a threat to its security, the conflict is likely to escalate.

Elections mark turning point in Mexico

By Peter Bate

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Sunday's election marked a turning point for Mexico's politics, according to United States analysts who see the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) on a firm course to democratisation.

However, Monday the U.S. government and most specialists held back from giving the election a clean bill, citing reports of irregularities especially in rural areas.

"Politics in Mexico will be different in the future. (PRI's presidential candidate) Ernesto Zedillo will not be as powerful as his predecessors," said former assistant secretary for Inter-American affairs Bernard Aronson.

"The PRI will probably not have automatic majorities in congress and the opposition comes out stronger from the elections. We'll see give-and-take politics and compromise," added the former Clinton administration official.

According to Mr. Aronson, a weaker presidency would not cause foreign investors to shy away from Mexico — rather the contrary.

"What would have created instability would be to try to maintain the old political system, which even members of the PRI admitted that was unsustainable," he said.

The PRI has governed Mexico for nearly 65 years, winning every national poll with the help of a vast array of tricks.

For Sunday's election, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari pledged to hold the cleanest and freest in Mexico's history.

However, State Department spokeswoman Christine Sbelley said she could not state that the election had been fair because it was too early to make such a pronouncement.

"From all of the reports that we've seen, (the) elections... appear to have been conducted in an orderly, peaceful fashion despite some irregularities," she said.

Mark Falcoff, a Latin America analyst with the American Enterprise Institute who travelled to Mexico to observe the poll, said that some incidents of foul play took place Sunday but not in the scale of vote-rigging of the 1988 election.

In that occasion PRI's Salinas emerged victorious after a mysterious breakdown in the ballot-tallying computer system.

"The process was generally acceptable. The opposition will continue to criticise the run-up to the election, and they certainly have a point on the issue of equal access to television," said Mr. Falcoff.

Nora Lustig, of the Brookings Institution, said that reports of irregularities were more frequent in rural areas.

"Widespread vote-rigging could also cause problems for the Clinton administration, as it would give U.S. critics of NAFTA

more munition," said the Mexico specialist.

Mr. Clinton obtained congressional approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement last year, overcoming opposition in his own Democracy Party to Mexico's inclusion in the pact.

Regarding the vote, economist William Cline said PRI's strong showing suggested Mexicans had preferred stability over change.

"Basically voters looked back at the last six years and decided that the economy had been better managed than in the past," added Mr. Cline, a senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics.

Under Mr. Salinas Mexico attracted record levels for foreign investment and attained enough stability to join the OECD group of the world's most developed countries.

The victory of the bookish Zedillo, a Yale-trained economist, also heralds a strong continuity of Mr. Salinas' market-oriented policies, said Mr. Cline.

"Politics in Mexico will be different in the future. (PRI's presidential candidate) Ernesto Zedillo will not be as powerful as his predecessors" — former assistant secretary for inter-American affairs Bernard Aronson.

"There will be a greater emphasis on social spending but the basics of Salinas' approach will remain — balanced budgets, free trade and opening of certain sectors where foreign investment was restricted," he added.

Isaac Cohen, director of the Washington Office of the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, said the next president will face a tough balancing act to spur growth, beef up social programmes and avoid prodding inflation.

"Mexico's economy suffered great shocks early this year due to the chiapas Indian uprising, the assassination of (PRI presidential candidate) Luis Donaldo Colosio and a rash of kidnappings of executives," Mr. Cohen said.

However, in the second quarter a substantial increase in public spending helped propel economic growth to a 3.8 per cent rate, against a 1.3 per cent decrease for all of 1993.

The current administration might also do something about letting the peso slide a little more against the U.S. dollar to stimulate exports," Mr. Cohen said.

LETTER

'A gross misrepresentation of the truth'

To the Editor:

E.A. Yaghi's column, "Someplace called home" (Jordan Times, Aug. 25-26) is a gross misrepresentation of the truth. In particular, her comments concerning the librarian at the American Cultural Centre are insensitive, totally unwarranted and quite possibly defamatory. I have known the said librarian for close to 20 years and she has always been the epitome of professionalism and efficiency. She is unstinting in her assistance to library patrons, indefatigable in her pursuit of facts, large or small, and completely scrupulous in her professional duties. Moreover, contrary to Ms. Yaghi, she speaks English with great fluency and panache. Perhaps Ms. Yaghi should do herself a favour and reexamine the motives (conscious or unconscious) that led her to pen her tirade. In so doing, she might find that she has unwittingly impugned the character and accomplishments of a fine person, and a competent professional besides.

Hala Fattah, Amman.

Features

Algeria closes border with Morocco in row

(Continued from page 1)

The two countries, which have a history of strained relations, abolished visas after forming the five-country Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) in 1989 which links them to Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia. The Algerian Foreign Ministry said the visa requirement was a violation of the AMU treaty.

Two Spanish tourists were killed and two persons wounded on Wednesday when three hooded gunmen sprayed the lobby of the Atlas Asni hotel in Marrakesh with automatic weapons fire before making off with 10,000 dirhams (\$1,130) in cash.

Morocco's Interior Ministry said two men arrested with "war weapons" in the central city of Fez were part of a mainly Algerian gang intent on robbing banks and attacking security forces and civilians.

Earlier this month three unidentified gunmen tried to hijack an armoured vehicle which was carrying funds to a bank in Casablanca but they were foiled by the guards and escaped.

Morocco's Interior Ministry said entry visas would in future be required of all visitors of Algerian nationality or origin. Those already in the country must report to the police as soon as possible to regularise their situation.

There was no hint in the Moroccan statement that the arrested gunmen were linked to Algeria's Muslim radicals.

"They appear to be just gangsters based in Europe who think Morocco is a soft target," one diplomat said.

The 1989 signing of the AMU treaty in Marrakesh ended 13 years of hostility caused by the war in Western Sahara where Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas are fighting for independence of the former Spanish colony claimed by Morocco.

The two neighbours cut diplomatic ties and closed the border in 1976 after more than 30,000 Moroccans resident in Algeria were expelled. There was a similar crisis in 1963 when the two countries waged a brief war on their disputed border.

But strains have remained. Morocco offered no condolences when an earthquake killed 164 people in Algeria on Aug. 18. Algeria offered none when a Moroccan airliner crashed on Aug. 21 killing 44 people.

Tourism ministry figures show 1,237,946 Algerians visited Morocco last year, down from 1.7 million in 1992.

Diplomats said the number of Algerian residents in Morocco was unknown. They include businessmen, teachers and others who have fled political violence which has killed more than 4,000 people in Algeria since early 1992.

2 Israelis killed; Hamas claims responsibility

(Continued from page 1)

Arrests on Saturday after the Tel Aviv attack.

Israel's police chief, Asaf Hefetz, called for Israelis to show restraint and said employers were often to blame for such attacks because they took on cheap Palestinian labourers without work permits.

Dozen of Palestinians without work permits were rounded up Saturday in the Ramle area where the bodies were found, Mr. Hefetz said.

Police also sent reinforcements to Ramle, which has a large Israeli Arab community, to prevent retaliatory attacks.

The victory of the Israeli Zedillo, a Yaltes economist, also heralds strong continuity of Salinas' market-oriented policies, said Mr. Cline.

Egyptian extremists threaten Cairo meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Sharia.

The Gamaa also claimed Friday's attack in southern Egypt.

Some of the more extreme critics say the conference is an attempt to discourage population growth in Islamic countries or to promote liberal views on sex and the family.

The Egyptian government has adopted the same critical attitude towards the conference "programme of action" but has defended the right of the participants to discuss it in Cairo.

The government had hoped the conference would rehabilitate Egypt as a safe destination for tourists, many of whom have been deterred by the political violence of the past two years.

More than 400 people have been killed in Egypt since the Gamaa took up arms, most of them either policemen or members of militant organisations. Most of the casualties have been in southern Egypt, where the Gamaa is strongest.

The government has been mobilising the security forces in preparation for the conference and has said repeatedly that it has the security situation under control.

One diplomat said on Saturday that the Gamaa statement would have been much more worrying if the attack on the Spaniards had taken place in Cairo rather than in Naga Hammadi, which lies on the Nile 480 kilometres south of the capital.

"At this stage there's no reason to believe it will deter anyone," he added. "The security forces are being very active."

Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali has said extra security was in place for the population conference and vowed

Shaat to sign accord on self-rule on Monday

(Continued from page 1)

that its forces might reenter the Palestinian self-rule zone if the violence continued.

Referring to the Israeli-PLO peace deal, Israel police chief Asaf Hefetz told a news conference in the town of Ramle, scene of the Friday killings:

"We are three months into implementation of the agreement and this is a test of the (law-enforcement) systems, how they function in a case like this."

The results of this cooperation will definitely have consequences as to what happens further on."

The Hamas group claimed responsibility for the stabbings, vowing to strike twice more by year's end.

In a newspaper interview published before the attacks on Friday, Doron Almog, army commander of still-occupied areas of the Gaza Strip, said his troops could pursue Palestinian assailants into self-rule areas if PLO police "show inaction" in halting attacks on Israelis.

Gen. Majaydeh said "we regret and completely reject" Gen. Almog's statement.

He said Gen. Almog "ignored the fact that the Palestinian police in the Strip know their duties, are capable of carrying them out perfectly, and need no one's certification that they are carrying them out."

Gen. Almog's warning also failed to take into account "the heavy burden left us by 27 years of Israeli occupation," Gen. Majaydeh told reporters.

Israeli cabinet ministers have generally lauded the performance of the Palestinian police since self-rule began.

But Israeli security forces and hardline opposition leaders have charged the PLO-led police turn a blind eye to Hamas, which has vowed to foil the peace deal with attacks on Jews.

FIS leaders call for government dialogue

(Continued from page 1)

In January 1992 after the military cancelled the second round of elections the then legal FIS was poised to win.

Mr. Djeddi and Boukhramkhan were freed in February after two years in prison in order to make contact with clandestine FIS leaders with a view to stopping the violence.

The fundamentalists want to set up an Islamic state in Algeria but are opposed not only by the military but also by secularists, liberals and feminist groups.

Thousands of soldiers, civilians and fundamentalists have been killed in the insurgency, which has increasingly targeted foreigners, with over 50 non-Algerians killed since last September.

The leader of the Armed Islamic Group who reportedly declared the rebel government has been sentenced to death by other members of the Armed Islamic Group, a newspaper reported Saturday.

A communiqué attributed to the Armed Islamic Group,

Peres: No deal with Lebanon without Syria

(Continued from page 1)

The sources reported that SLA and Israeli forces retaliated by firing more than 50 mortar and howitzer rounds on the villages of Zawat, Hamra and Kabrikha, which they pinpointed as the guerrilla firing points.

There was no immediate word of any casualties from the bombardment.

Hizbollah spearheads a guerrilla campaign to drive the Israelis out of the 1,100-square-kilometre zone they have occupied since 1985.

Suddenly, Milosevic wears a peacemakers halo

Reuter

BELGRADE — Slobodan Milosevic, once the sinister manipulator who persuaded his people to fight for greater Serbia, wears a peacemaker's halo nowadays, at least in the eyes of the outside world.

The Serbian president, whom the West used to describe as a suspected war criminal, has become a lynchpin in efforts to end the war in Bosnia.

While Bosnian Serb leaders bang the drum for rejection of an international peace plan in a referendum this weekend, Mr. Milosevic is at the centre of diplomacy aimed at bringing the bloodshed to an end after 28 months.

Courted by the big powers with their scheme to divide Bosnia between its Serbs and a federation of Muslims and Croats, Mr. Milosevic has turned ferociously on his former Serb proteges and their policy of defiance.

Discarding the aggressive nationalism that thrust him to power in 1988, his priority has become the economic survival of his country, the lifting of ruinous U.N. sanctions.

Serbs in Serbia regard their wily leader as an arch enemy or a political chameleon, shifting his ground as

necessity dictates without leaving a footprint.

To the hardline nationalists at home and in Bosnia, he is incorrigibly devious, a traitor to the cause of Serb unity for which so many have died on Croatian and Bosnian battlefields since 1991.

Unable to coerce the Bosnian Serbs by argument, the former banker schooled in the old Yugoslav Communist Party apparatus has turned to force to get his way.

When their hardline parliament rejected the peace plan, he imposed an economic blockade of his own, cutting off the flow of money and vital military supplies to the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA).

The big power authors of the peace plan want only one more proof of Serbian good conduct before starting to unshackle the sanctions that have helped destroy a standard of living that was the envy of the former Communist bloc.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev will visit Belgrade on Sunday to persuade Milosevic that international monitors on Serbia's border with Bosnia are indispensable.

The Serb president has meanwhile set out to destroy Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, president of the self-proclaimed Serb Republic in Bosnia and symbol of its defiance.

Yugoslav President Zoran Ljilic, a Milosevic appointee, has denounced Mr. Karadzic and his supporters as war criminals and profiteers pursuing the conflict for their own ends.



The unprecedented attack during the referendum was widely publicised by the Yugoslav media which pursued its own campaign against the Bosnian Serbs more accustomed to sympathetic encouragement from that quarter.

Mr. Milosevic's tactic has been to preach a message of moderation to the Bosnian Serbs that would have sat easily on the lips of any U.N. peacemaker.

The Bosnian Serbs risked crossing the line between a legitimate war to defend their national interests and one of conquest, he warned. Even if then half of Bosnia was worse than the Muslim-Croat share, they should accept it.

Nor did he spare their leaders who have waved for war booty while fighters and their families suffered and died on a weekly put-up.

The Bosnian Serb leadership, with its control of the country's tangle of political structure, expects to prevail in the referendum.

But Mr. Milosevic's relentless pragmatism has pushed their backs closer to the wall and made moderation respectable again for the many ordinary Serbs who have always wondered what this war is about.

Speculation mounts over Korean secession

By Kate Webb

SEOUL — Speculation has mounted here over opposition to North Korea's heir apparent Kim Jong-il — fuelled by the first report of dissidence in Pyongyang but bedevilled by lack of information and possible disinformation.

A reported dissident leaflet drop in the tightly secured diplomatic compound in the North Korean capital last week was carried in detail Tuesday by the South's Yonhap news agency.

But it was met initially with scepticism by diplomats and analysts here, precisely because of the history of hitler counter-propaganda between the two Koreas aimed at destabilising one another.

In the words of one Western diplomat: "I wouldn't believe it unless I saw a picture of a diplomat on his doorstep in Pyongyang on Saturday morning with a leaflet in one hand and his morning milk bottle in the other."

But the diplomats, like the South Korean government, say they are increasingly unimpressed by the fact that it is 49 days since Kim Il-Sung died — and North Korea still remains without a president or a party chief.

"There is growing uncertainty over the situation in North Korea," one senior Western diplomat told AFP here.

So reclusive and secretive is the Stalinist regime that even the CIA admitted last month it was at a loss to evaluate Kim Jong-il, or the rumours that he was at odds with the powerful North Korean military.

Pyongyang watchers have been left sitting through "the chicken entrails" of broadcasts and television — which showed the junior Kim at his father's funeral, silent and gaunt.

He was — depending on which analysts one listened to — suffering from diabetes, cirrhosis of the liver, partial paralysis or all three.

But doubts over the leaflet drop report fell Wednesday when a German diplomat in Tokyo said the two German diplomats at the Swedish embassy in Pyongyang had confirmed that "leaflets were dropped in several other embassies."

Though the diplomat said the content of the leaflets was unknown and was reluctant to mention at which embassies they had been found, the confirmation galvanised the South Korean government.

President Kim Young-Sam, whose government took the report seriously Tuesday, immediately cancelled scheduled meetings and ordered an all out effort to step up monitoring of the North, a presidential spokesman said.

The leaflets, according to Yonhap, had urged the "overthrow" of Kim Jong-il, 52, Kim Il-Sung's reclusive eldest son, who has been groomed since the 1970s to replace his father.

Yonhap speculated that the leaflets had been to show the outside world that there was resistance to Mr. Kim and that the resistance was top-level — because no ordinary man could gain access to the heavily guarded complex.

On the other hand, Yonhap cautioned, it could have been a complicated ploy by the junior Kim to unseat opponents.

From the day of Kim Il-Sung's death, speculation had been widespread that Mr. Kim — podgy, on-travelled and seemingly morose the few times he had been seen in public — would have trouble filling the shoes of his dictator father.

But for a few weeks North Korea's official media put paid to the speculation, proclaiming Kim Jong-il the new "great leader". Still, the two top posts held by his ebullient father — the presidency and the general secretary of the party — remained vacant.

Then on Sunday came the most tangible, and most tantalising, clue — a North Korean radio reference to the dangers of "falling prey to treacherous conspirators... if we fail to solve the succession problem."

It was the first reference to a succession "problem" from a country which does not officially recognise problems. And it came on top of a report by Pyongyang's mouthpiece Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) which called Kim Jong-il's appearance at the funeral "haggard."

The haggard reference came in a report of a dozing match to the junior Kim, who reportedly prefers to work and entertain into the small hours, from a nine-year-old girl who urged him to "go to bed early" and eat proper meals.

But many North Korea watchers have cautioned that the isolated regime matches to its drum, and that Sept. 9 and Oct. 10 are dates to watch for a real indication of where the power lies in Pyongyang.

Sept. 9 is the anniversary of the founding of the country in the ashes of World War II and the birth of the official anniversary of the party.

Team finds Cyprus temple dedicated to Apollo

Nicosia (AP)

Archaeologists from the University of New York has established that a Greco-Roman temple on Yeronisos island off western Cyprus was dedicated to Apollo, the God of light, ending years of speculation about the ancient site.

The government's antiquities department said in a statement Monday that "outstanding finds of the 1994 season of excavation are a lion's head spout carved from limestone and an inscription identifying the divinity worshipped on Yeronisos as Apollo."

Yeronisos, Greek for holy island, lies 16 kilometres north of Paphos, the ancient city dedicated to the worship of Aphrodite the goddess of love.

Apollo was one of the most important Olympian gods. He was concerned especially with prophecy, medicine, music, poetry as well as bucolic arts, particularly the care of flocks and herds.

But he was also associated with the higher developments of civilisation, such as law, philosophy and the arts.

The discoveries were made during a recently completed two-month excavating season by a team of 17 archaeologists and students from the University of New York led by Joan Breton Connelly, associate professor of fine arts.

The statement said that the 30-centimetre-high lion's head spout, "with highly animated eyebrows and jewels sensitively carved in local limestone, presents a unique example of late Hellenistic architectural sculpture in

Cyprus."

It said that the ruins of an impressive building sited dramatically on the steeply rising cliffs of the island suggest it may have been a temple.

Among the discoveries made this summer was an amphora sherd inscribed "Apollo" in late Hellenistic Greek script.

"After years of speculation as to which divinity was worshipped on the 'holy island', this inscription at last gives evidence that it was Apollo," the statement said.

It added that the temple "would have presented a compelling vision for ships passing along the trade routes from east Greece to Alexandria."

It said that coin discoveries provide evidence of a remarkably short period of occupation of Yeronisos, from 80-30 B.C.

"All coins on the island fall within the reigns of Ptolemy XII and Cleopatra VII, the last of the Ptolemaic rulers. This makes Yeronisos a highly significant site for our understanding of the history of the Eastern Mediterranean just prior to the battle of Actium."

This was the 6th century B.C. sea battle in which the Emperor Octavian defeated the combined fleet of Antony and Cleopatra.

The statement added that the latest discoveries provide a "closely dated ceramic sequence of enormous potential benefit to Hellenistic sites throughout the Eastern Mediterranean which lacks well established chronological boundaries."

Asia's latest dynastic ruler

By Rohan Gunasekera

Reuter

COLOMBO — The handsome widow who has become Sri Lanka's second female prime minister is the latest example of a South Asian tradition where political power has been confined to a handful of ruling dynasties.

Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, 49, who led the People's Alliance (PA) coalition to a narrow victory on Aug. 16 general election, is the world's first national leader whose mother and father were both prime ministers.

Ms. Kumaratunga's mother, Sirima Bandaranaike, made history in 1960 when she became the world's first woman prime minister, succeeding husband Solomon Bandaranaike after his assassination.

South Asia's other female prime ministers, Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto and Begum Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh, who like Ms. Kumaratunga are themselves from ruling dynasties, were quick to congratulate the new Sri Lankan leader.

"...I am particularly pleased that yet another woman has been elected to lead a South Asian nation, following the footsteps of your illustrious mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who was the world's first woman prime minister," Ms. Bhutto said in her message.

Ms. Zia wrote: "As current chairperson of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, I look forward to working with you closely for further promotion of peace, stability and cooperation in our region."



Ms. Bhutto is the daughter of the late Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto while Ms. Zia entered full-time politics following the assassination of her husband, Bangladesh president Ziaur Rahman.

Newspapers splashed pictures of Ms. Kumaratunga as a child with her parents alongside South Asian leaders of a previous generation such as Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his daughter Indira Gandhi, who also became prime minister.

Ms. Gandhi was succeeded by her son Rajiv following her assassination in 1984. The younger Gandhi was also killed.

"In Sri Lankan politics, social background, family and kinship do matter as in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh," said Jayadeva Uyangoda, a political scientist at the University of Colombo.

"There is very little generational continuity if the families do not come from an elitist background," he told Reuters.

"To be in politics you need a lot of resources, not only economic capital but social capital — prominence and social acceptance."

Leading political individuals must come from socially and economically affluent and powerful backgrounds, he said.

"Chandrika (Bandaranaike) Kumaratunga stands in the direct familial and political line of her illustrious parents..." the independent Sunday Island newspaper said in a profile of the new prime minister.

Ms. Kumaratunga is a fresh face in Sri Lanka's political scene and her winsome smile and charismatic personality made her the star attraction in the PA's campaign rallies.

Chinese premier warns of social unrest

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese Premier Li Peng has issued a stern warning about the dangers facing China's economic reforms, with rampant inflation and low state-sector incomes generating fears of social unrest.

In an unusually frank speech carried on the front pages of all major Chinese newspapers Saturday, Mr. Li admitted that negative fallout from the ongoing reform programme was already posing a serious threat to social stability.

"The social order in some areas is not good and some contradictions among the people arising in the new situation merit earnest study and settlement," Mr. Li told a plenary session of the Chinese cabinet.

Citing the battle against inflation as the government's top priority in the coming four months, the premier stressed that price control was "crucial" to maintaining national stability and development.

"Prices have risen too fast and the inflationary pressure is still too big," Mr. Li said, warning that capital construction had been "overextended" and investment in fixed assets — despite a gov-

ernment freeze — remained dangerously high.

Inflation is currently running at 20 per cent nationwide and as high as 25 per cent in major cities, fuelling public discontent over the price of basic foodstuffs and materials.

Since July last year, city dwellers have seen food prices rise 31.9 per cent, according to a recent report by the State Statistics Bureau.

The situation has been exacerbated by the problems dogging China's loss-making state sector which have seen workers' incomes fail to keep pace with inflation.

"A number of state-owned enterprises are in difficulty and the real income of workers has dropped in enterprises with poor economic results," Mr. Li said.

"Reform in this sector should be deepened," he added.

However, while recognising the need for drastic changes, the government has so far been unwilling to overhaul state-run enterprises — nearly 50 per cent of which are in the red — due to the threat of unemployment and social unrest that would be an inevitable part of any streamlining programme.

According to official statistics, 103 million people are employed in the state sector which loses some 30 billion yuan (\$3.5 billion) annually. A recent report by the financial analysts and merchant bank Barings Securities put the figure at more than 50 billion yuan.

The premier also highlighted the difficulties facing the country's agricultural sector, especially in the wake of a series of natural disasters that have left farmers ravaged by drought and floods and severely disrupted food supplies.

"The living of several hundred million peasants will have a direct bearing on China's national economic development and social stability," Mr. Li stressed, adding that the supply of food to the country's vast population was a matter of paramount importance "that can at no time be neglected."

He also reminded local officials that they remained responsible for ensuring the supply of grain, vegetables and other basics and called on governments at all levels to make greater efforts to ensure the success of the reform programme.

"We must face the existing difficulties squarely and solve the problems through hard

work," Mr. Li said.

Grain and vegetable prices surged 57.8 per cent and 29.7 per cent respectively in July, compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Li's speech was the latest in a series of top-level government directives aimed at curbing inflation.

On Wednesday, the Chinese cabinet issued a circular ordering all price rises to be shelved for the rest of the week, while earlier in the week the ministry of internal trade directed all state-owned stores to stabilise the non-staple food market, following unacceptable rises in the price of salt, sugar, cooking oil and spices.

On the productivity front, the Chinese cabinet has mapped out an economic rescue package for ailing state-run firms in 18 cities across the country.

The package includes increased funding and tax breaks for government enterprises, which remain the cornerstone of China's socialist doctrine but are hemorrhaging cash at an unacceptable rate.

Vice Minister of the State Economic and Trade Commission Chen Qingtai said the rescue deal would also target the upgrading of out-

dated machinery and technical training for the workforce.

"Enterprise reform must be connected with technical renovation," Mr. Chen said, stressing that "only this could make the state sector more competitive in the market."

The firms in the 18 chosen cities would act as models for state-sector reform on a national level, he added.

However, Mr. Chen made it clear that while the government was willing to sink more funds into the sector, individual firms will be expected to compete independently in the market and must sort themselves out or face bankruptcy.

A well-established bankruptcy system will inspire and also pressure factory managers and workers to do their best in the market," the China Daily quoted Mr. Chen as saying.

Mr. Chen emphasised the importance of establishing an effective social security system to lessen the fallout from any reform programme.

Pension insurance and unemployment benefit must be extended to cover all types of enterprises and job centres set up to help redundant workers find fresh employment, he said.

Japan to boost aid despite tight budget

TOKYO (R) — Japan will increase its official aid to developing countries and international organisations by about 7.7 per cent next financial year despite an austere state budget, officials said Friday.

Growth in the overall state budget for the 1995/96 financial year will be kept to 4.8 per cent, totalling about 76.57 trillion yen (\$773 billion), finance and foreign ministry officials said.

Both ministries submitted their budget requests Friday. The government will decide its final budget draft in December before seeking parliamentary approval.

Japan's aid programme, one of the largest in the world, includes grants, yen-denominated loans, technical assistance and contributions to international organisations.

It is projected to increase to about 1.14 trillion yen (\$11.5 billion) next year from 1.06 trillion yen (\$10.7 billion) in the current fiscal year, officials said.

In recent years, the steep rise of the yen has meant Japan's aid in dollar terms has grown faster than the nominal figure.

Requests for general account spending, the core of the state budget, are seen totalling 42.82 trillion yen (\$432 billion), up 4.8 per cent from the original 1994/95 budget. This is in line with a ceiling set by ministry of finance in late July.

The requests include a projected 15.47 trillion yen (\$156 billion) in subsidies to regional governments and agencies, up 21.2 per cent, and an estimated 16.41 trillion yen (\$165 billion) in debt-servicing costs, up 14.3 per cent.

Requests for the government's loans and investment programme in 1995/96 are seen as totalling 43.08 trillion yen (\$435 billion), up nine per cent, the same rate of increase seen in budget requests for this year, the official said.

U.S. economy grows at 3.8% in 2nd quarter

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 3.8 per cent in the second quarter of 1994, the Commerce Department reported Friday, easing inflationary fears and boosting share prices.

Market analysts had forecast the gross domestic product (GDP) would expand during the April-to-June quarter at a rate of about 4.2 per cent.

Friday's second-quarter figure was revised from an initial 3.7 per cent rate the Commerce Department reported a month ago. The department will publish its final report on second-quarter performance at the end of September.

The growth report pushed interest rates down on the bond market and sent share prices on Wall Street soaring.

Shortly after 1:00 p.m. (1700 GMT), the Dow Jones index of leading industrial shares was up 60.87 points at 3,890.76 and interest rates on 30-year Treasury bonds fell to 7.44 per cent from 7.49 per cent earlier in the day and 7.53 per cent late Thursday.

Despite the half-point rise in the GDP from the rate of 3.3 per cent in the first quarter, the latest figures demonstrated that expansion had abated and that inflation was still under control, according to Delos Smith, an economist with the private business group the Conference Board.

In fact, an inflation gauge tied to the GDP showed prices rose at an annual rate of 2.9 per cent for the second quarter, in line with the department's first report, and up from 3.1 per cent during the first quarter.

Moreover, almost two-thirds of the increase in growth was due to a huge build-up of unsold goods, and analysts believe that growth

will slow significantly in the second half of this year as companies reduce their stocks.

Consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, rose just \$12.3 billion at an annual rate to the second quarter, or 1.4 per cent, against a rise of \$40.1 billion for the first three months of the year.

The sharp drop reflects the four interest rate hikes between February and May prompted by the Federal Reserve (Fed), which was concerned that the 6.3 per cent growth rate for the third quarter of 1993 meant the economy was overheating.

The Fed made another move on Aug. 16, raising the interbank rate for the fifth time this year, boosting it to 4.75 per cent from 3.0 per cent in February.

It also raised the discount rate twice from 3.0 per cent to 4.0 per cent.

Activity also slowed in the housing sector, where construction rose by just 7.3 per cent, down from its 10 per cent rise in the first quarter.

In addition to consumer spending and construction, a drop in exports also weighed on the economy during the period.

Signs of slower growth were felt earlier in July, with a 4.2 per cent drop in orders for durable goods which the Commerce Department reported last week.

Economists predicted that the growth rate should settle at about three per cent for the whole year, with a rate of 3.4 per cent for the whole year.

The Conference Board said last week that the U.S. economy is likely to show a growth rate of four per cent until 1995, with inflation increasing to 3.6 per cent from the current level of 2.7 per cent.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 28, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be careful in motion today to avoid any possibility of accident and avoid one who is always changing their plans at the last moment. Be kind and understanding of others who are slow on the uptake.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your position in the community and try to improve it. Show your benefactors that you appreciate their support on a new assignment.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get out to whatever place which will bring you peace of mind. Make plans for the week ahead so that it becomes more productive for you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Try to keep promises to others and plan for greater things in the future. Express happiness with your family and good friends.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A fine day to be of assistance to others in need. Situations arise now that could lead to self-improvement and advancement.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day to be of service to others wherever needed, even if you're not asked to do so. Avoid one who wants to waste your time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Figure out a better way to express your creative talents. Schedule your activities for the new week and get excellent results.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make any changes needed at home so that everything is more ideal towards your benefit. Show increased devotion for family members.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are able to communicate with others very well now, so contact key people and get good results. Be wise in all of your actions.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A good time to make plans to have more abundance in the days ahead. Strive to have increased harmony at home with loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) The early hours are fine for making important decisions about the future. Catch up on your rest today so you are fresh for tomorrow.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make sure you get in touch with friends who are looking forward in seeing you. Keep any promises you have made to those in authority.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Handle civic duties which appeal to you and gain more prestige. Plan the week ahead wisely and receive added benefits.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

South Korea puts strike production losses at \$1.65b

SEOUL (AFP) — Labour disputes at South Korea's major industrial sites have caused production losses of \$1.65 billion so far this year and triggered an export bottleneck, the trade, industry and energy ministry said Friday.

Of a total of 49 strikes reported as of Wednesday, 39, including the longest at Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI), which on Thursday announced that the walkout was over, have been settled. Ten remain unresolved.

The cost of the strikes was 32.8 per cent less than the \$2.47 billion lost from 83 disputes registered during the corresponding period last year.

But the effect on the nation's exports was almost as heavy as in the same period in 1993 — totalling \$529.3

million, or 1.6 per cent less than the \$538 million a year ago, a ministry official said.

The ministry has set an ambitious export target of \$91.5 billion for the whole of this year.

Hyundai Heavy Industries, during its paralysing 63-day strike, missed \$343 million in export orders, while its lost sales were put at \$630 million, excluding another \$210 million lost by its 1,500 contractors and suppliers, said a Hyundai spokesman.

The ministry said production setbacks taken by the HHI and its contractors accounted for 50.5 per cent of total manufacturing losses so far this year.

Meanwhile, the union of Hyundai Precision and Industries Co., a sister company of HHI, entered the second day of a total walkout Friday —

demanding to be paid for the 54 days of strike earlier in the year.

Government officials, saying HHI's settlement without government intervention had set a good precedent, expressed the hope that the remaining disputes could be solved without resort to arbitration or police action.

On the overall economic scene, a state-run think tank has predicted that South Korea's economy will expand 7.7 per cent in the second half of this year, resulting in 8.3 per cent growth for the whole year.

The Korea Development Institute (KDI) also said the economy would expand 7.6 per cent next year, mainly because of strong domestic consumption and improving exports.

Poland's commercial debt write off to be over 49%

WARSAW (R) — Virtually all of Poland's commercial creditors have joined a deal slashing its \$13 billion debt and the scale of reduction is likely to exceed 49 per cent, Warsaw's chief negotiator Krzysztof Krowacki said Friday.

As much as 99 per cent of 500 international debt holders have committed themselves to the restructuring, under which part of the debt would be bought back by Warsaw and the remainder turned into bonds.

"The level of reduction can be higher than 49 per cent," Mr. Krowacki told Reuters over the telephone. He declined to give any details, saying they would be released Monday at a news conference.

During four years of often disrupted negotiations with the creditors' representa-

tives, Poland has strived to obtain a reduction identical to a 1991 halving of a \$35 billion debt owed to government lenders.

Original lenders and secondary market traders, which held the Polish debt, had offered a much smaller reduction, arguing Poland's potential and economic recovery in the last two years enabled it to pay more.

But in a long-awaited breakthrough in March, the two sides reached an agreement, initially envisaging a reduction of roughly 46 per cent, depending on restructuring options selected by the banks.

Since then Poland and the creditors' steering committee have been trying to persuade individual creditors to commit themselves to the agreement.

Mandela says South Africa needs to step up land reforms

HARARE (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela said Friday his country must step up plans to resettle or compensate thousands of blacks dispossessed under apartheid in order to establish stable rural communities.

Opening Zimbabwe's annual agricultural show in Harare, Mr. Mandela said his

government of national unity's objective was to develop South Africa's agricultural sector in a fair manner as envisaged in its reconstruction and development plan.

"This is urgent because agriculture forms an important part of our economy," he said. "To achieve this we have to ensure the necessary conditions for the commer-

cial sector to thrive. This should include the improvement of the working conditions of millions of farm-workers."

"We also have to intensify the programme to resettle or compensate those who were unjustly dispossessed, distribute available state land among deprived communities and assist small-scale farmers

to set themselves up and prosper," he added.

He said South Africa was keenly interested in land reform experiences of Zimbabwe, which has over the past two years increased its efforts to resettle thousands of landless blacks under controversial legislation which allows the state to forcibly buy mostly white-owned

farms for resettlement.

Four white farmers are challenging the government's decision to earmark their land for resettlement in a landmark case in the supreme court.

Mr. Mandela, on his first official visit to Zimbabwe since he swept to power in April elections, said although South Africa had a developed

agricultural sector, helped by state-sponsored research, this research had not benefited all.

"This has to change. The advanced technology available needs to be adopted to suit local conditions, meet community needs and make creative use of latent indigenous information and experience," he said.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



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THE BETTER HALF



Jumble not received

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

THE Daily Crossword by Henry Saltzhander

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Impire	1 Dwan
6 Crisp	2 Despot
10 New inches	3 Summit
14 Hollywood award	4 — West
15 Pierre's girlfriend	5 Math test question
16 Shield border	6 Western lake
17 Money's notoriety?	7 Musical and —
19 Office competition	8 Wear measure
20 Exit	9 Rained
21 Blessing	10 Gloomy
22 Trapped native	11 Larry's victim?
24 Turret about	12 — matter
25 Cowboy	13 Sign gas
26 Flour serve	14 — guitar
27 Patient	23 Footnote word
28 Helrod	24 Tuxedo button
29 Winchcraft town	25 "Good Times" star
30 Heat measure: abbr.	26 Farber novel
31 Sen. Robert —	27 Russian poem
32 Infant	28 Lucy's order?
33 Humonats	29 Great care
34 — de France	30 Shop
35 Actor Greene	31 Ribwort
36 Invention mark	32 Tatter
37 Vicious and —	33 Cabbage dish
38 " — Green	34 San — Chicago, Cal.
39 Tomatoes	40 Informal attire
40 Adorn with raised letters	
41 Love to escape	
42 Way	
43 Edna's good fortune?	
44 " — want for Christmas..."	
45 Tunes	
46 Knack	
47 TV part	
48 Troubles	
49 Er	

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. Impire, 6. Crisp, 10. New inches, 14. Hollywood award, 15. Pierre's girlfriend, 16. Shield border, 17. Money's notoriety?, 19. Office competition, 20. Exit, 21. Blessing, 22. Trapped native, 24. Turret about, 25. Cowboy, 26. Flour serve, 27. Patient, 28. Helrod, 29. Winchcraft town, 30. Heat measure: abbr., 31. Sen. Robert —, 32. Infant, 33. Humonats, 34. — de France, 35. Actor Greene, 36. Invention mark, 37. Vicious and —, 38. " — Green, 39. Tomatoes, 40. Adorn with raised letters, 41. Love to escape, 42. Way, 43. Edna's good fortune?, 44. " — want for Christmas...", 45. Tunes, 46. Knack, 47. TV part, 48. Troubles, 49. Er.

DOWN: 1. Dwan, 2. Despot, 3. Summit, 4. — West, 5. Math test question, 6. Western lake, 7. Musical and —, 8. Wear measure, 9. Rained, 10. Gloomy, 11. Larry's victim?, 12. — matter, 13. Sign gas, 14. — guitar, 23. Footnote word, 24. Tuxedo button, 25. "Good Times" star, 26. Farber novel, 27. Russian poem, 28. Lucy's order?, 29. Great care, 30. Shop, 31. Ribwort, 32. Tatter, 33. Cabbage dish, 34. San — Chicago, Cal., 40. Informal attire.

MONDAY, AUGUST 28

Y grows at quarter

will slow significantly in second half of this year as companies reduce stocks.

Consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, just \$12.3 billion at a rate of 1.4 per cent, against a \$40.1 billion for the three months of the year.

The sharp drop reflects four interest rate hikes between February and June, prompted by the Federal Reserve (Fed), which has earned that the 6.5 per cent growth rate for the quarter of 1993 was over.

The Fed made its move on Aug. 16, raising the interbank rate for the time this year, boosting 4.75 per cent from 3.5 per cent in February.

It also raised the discount rate twice from 3.0 per cent to 4.0 per cent.

Activity also slowed in housing sector, where construction rose by just 1 per cent, down from its 1.5 per cent rise in the first quarter.

In addition to consumer spending and construction, drop in exports also weighed on the economy during period.

Signs of slower growth were felt earlier in July, as a 4.2 per cent drop in exports for durable goods while Commerce Department reported last week.

Economists predicted the growth rate should be about three per cent, the whole year, with a 1.4 per cent for the year.

The Conference Board last week that the U.S. economy is likely to show growth rate of four per cent until 1995, with inflation rising to 3.0 per cent, the current level of 2.5 per cent.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close 25/8/94	New York Close 26/8/94
Starling Pound	1.5565	1.5510
Deutsche Mark	1.5425	1.5745
Swiss Franc	1.5023	1.3360
French Franc	5.2885	5.3920
Japanese Yen	99.78	100.45
European Currency Unit	1.2340	1.2050

1 US Per 500
European Currency Unit = 100 S.M. UNIT

Source: Jordan Times

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.56	4.68	5.00	5.50
Starling Pound	4.75	5.12	5.62	6.50
Deutsche Mark	4.62	4.75	4.81	5.12
Swiss Franc	3.92	4.06	4.25	4.50
French Franc	3.25	3.37	3.68	4.12
Japanese Yen	1.13	2.06	5.12	5.43
European Currency Unit	5.62	5.76	6.15	6.58

Source: Jordan Times

General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Buy	Sell
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000
Starling Pound	1.6668	1.6721
Deutsche Mark	0.4429	0.4451
Swiss Franc	0.5288	0.5314
French Franc	0.1294	0.1300
Japanese Yen	0.0045	0.0046
Dutch Guilder	0.3945	0.3965
Swedish Krona	0.0438	0.0440
Italian Lira	0.0438	0.0440
Belgian Franc	0.0438	0.0440

Source: Jordan Times

Currency	Buy	Sell
Bahraini Dinar	1.8550	1.8550
Lebanese Lira	0.040555	0.041255
Saudi Riyal	0.1856	0.1872
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5100	2.5100
Qatari Riyal	0.1910	0.1935
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.1800	0.1820
UAE Dirham	0.1890	0.1919
Czech Drachmas	0.2825	0.3245
Cypriot Pound	1.3960	1.5050

Source: Jordan Times

Bahrain's Alba borrowed \$1.3b to finance plan

MANAMA (R) — Aluminium Bahrain BSC (Alba), the biggest aluminium producer in the Middle East, borrowed \$1.3 billion from banks to finance 90 per cent of its expansion programme, an official said in remarks published Saturday.

Alba has spent around \$1.45 billion to double production capacity to 460,000 tonnes annually from around 225,000 tonnes. It is now producing around 445,000 tonnes a year.

Financial manager Ahmad Saleh Al Moaimy told Bahrain's Al Ayyam newspaper the remaining 10 per cent of the cost of doubling the smelter's capacity had been paid by Alba's owners — the governments of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and a German company.

Mr. Moaimy also said around 10 per cent of the borrowed funds had already been repaid.

The Bahraini government holds a 77 per cent stake in Alba, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund owns 20 per cent and the German group Breton Investments holds the rest.

Meanwhile, the government of Bahrain, which has gradually been reducing its holding in the state downstream aluminium company, has approved the flotation of the company.

The Gulf News Agency, said the ministry of commerce had agreed to the flotation of the Bahrain Aluminium Extrusion Company (BALECO) and double its authorised capital to 20 million dinars (\$53 million) from 10 million dinars (\$26.5 million).

Arab Gulf states plan export, investment drive in Europe

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states will bid to penetrate European markets and attract industrial technology when they hold their first major overseas exhibition in London next month, officials said Saturday.

More than 300 companies from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will participate in the week-long fair, which officials expect to attract more than 100,000 visitors from Britain and other European Union (EU) members.

The Riyadh-based GCC secretariat and the joint British-Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry are sponsoring the Sept. 12-18 show, which will also include seminars to explain investment opportunities in the oil-rich region.

"It is the biggest exhibition to be staged jointly by GCC countries abroad. It constitutes a great opportunity to promote our products and discuss joint industrial ventures," a GCC official told AFP by telephone from Riyadh.

"We expect the event to succeed as we have received great interest from thousands of businessmen," he said.

Gulf officials said the exhibition would include clothes and textile, foodstuffs, light equipment, furniture, home appliances and other light products. Some British firms would also display industrial products.

GCC states decided on holding the fair last year as they pursued attempts to find new outlets for their non-oil exports and attract technology needed to build an industrial base to diversify their oil-reliant economy.

The six members — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — will discuss such issues when they hold a conference with Japanese businessmen in Tokyo later this year.

Gulf states, which control more than 40 per cent of the world's oil, have launched an industrialisation campaign to reduce dependence on oil exports as other sectors like tourism and agriculture are limited.

Official figures showed they have pumped more than \$50 billion to set up nearly 4,000 factories producing over 10,000 different products.

Such investments have boosted the industrial sector's value to around \$14.7 billion from \$11.4 billion in 1985.

Its share in the gross domestic product has also sharply risen to 10.8 per cent from 7.1 per cent of the oil exports of around \$70 billion a year.

"Medium and heavy industries are essential for the success of our diversification drive but we lack technology for such sectors," a UAE official said. "That's why we had to need help from industrial countries."

Officials said they would ask EU businessmen at their talks in London to take advantage of economic reforms in the Gulf and incentives for the private sector, triggered by weak oil prices. They said they would also explain the benefits of the Gulf region concerning its modern infrastructure, proximity to Iran, India and other key consumer markets and its abundant energy and cheap labour.

The UAE federation of chambers of commerce and industry has said GCC participants in the London fair would explain investment rules and economic developments in their countries as well as incentives for joint ventures.

Computer makers expect copyright law to boost business in UAE

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — Major computer producers have said they were expecting a surge in business in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after the introduction of copyright protection laws.

The laws, enacted in 1993 under U.S. pressure, have started to hit piracy which cost software agents around \$54.4 million last year, according to a statement by the Dubai World Trade Centre.

The centre is sponsoring the biggest computer fair to the Middle East to be held here in October.

It said most of the high-quality pirated software coming into the UAE was being imported from China, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

Piracy investigating bodies discovered that copying was carried out at dealer level in the UAE, with software being copied from originals, it said.

"There is a major opportunity for the creation of a UAE software development industry which will only come with effective copyright enforcement," it quoted Ashley Craven, regional marketing manager at the U.S. Lotus computer giant, as saying.

"The information technology industry in the UAE will be enhanced considerably with both new jobs and new products being created locally and internationally," he said.

The UAE is among a few Arab countries that have introduced laws to protect copyrights, industrial and intellectual property and drafting similar legislation. The moves followed talks with the United States which passed on complaints from companies that infringements were costing them more than \$500 million in losses in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The GCC is one of the fastest growing computer markets given the rapid expansion in its industry, banking and other sectors.

According to dealers, the market is growing by 10 per cent annually and its turnover of computer and software exceeds \$1 billion a year.

"We hope the enforcement of the copyright law will create a dramatic increase in legitimate software sales," said Brian McEachron, vice president of the U.S. Business Software Alliance company.

"The law is new to the region and we have to help educate the vendors."

Gulf Air cuts fares on lucrative Doha-India route

DOHA (R) — Gulf Air has slashed fares on flights between India and the Arab Gulf state of Qatar, where Indians form the largest expatriate community.

Travel industry sources said the decision to lower fares between Qatar's capital Doha and four Indian cities was expected to spark a price war among regional airlines, one of which is owned by Qatar, a Gulf Air shareholder.

Gulf Air lowered return fares between Doha and Madras, Bombay, Trivandrum and New Delhi on tickets valid for six months as of Aug. 25. It lowered its fare to 1,950 riyals (\$535) from the published rate of 2,600 riyals (\$714) on the Doha-Bombay route as well as on return flights to New Delhi.

Qatar has launched its own airline Qatar Airways and plans to increase flights to India after it expands its fleet. Its return fare to Bombay is currently 1,800 (\$494).

Gulf Air is also owned by Oman, which recently launched its own airline, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi.

Gulf Air's Doha-Madras return fares were dropped to 2,570 riyals (\$706) from 3,420 (\$939) and Doha-Trivandrum to 2,630 riyals (\$722) from 3,510 riyals (\$964).

Air India, India's national carrier, charges 1,900 riyals (\$521) return fare between Doha, Bombay and New Delhi.

Kuwait Airways, Saudia, Cathay Pacific and Emirates airlines also operate flights between Doha and Indian cities.

Vietnam to auction gemstones in U.S.

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnam has asked auction house Sotheby's to organise the country's first public sale of gemstones in the United States, a report has said.

Executives from Sotheby's have visited Vietnam to begin preparations for the sale of rubies and other gems which is expected to take place in New York next spring, a U.S. consultant advising the government on gem sales told the Vietnam Investment Review.

No estimate was given for the value of stones to be sold at the auction, which will take place "as soon as government procedures have been completed," said Jabir president of Gemusa, which is advising the State Bank of Vietnam on gem sales.

An auction of stones last year was a massive disappointment for the government after only \$30,000 of gems out of an estimated \$1.8 million on offer sold because prices were too high and export regulations too strict, the official newspaper said.

High export taxes were hindering development of the gem business and encouraging smuggling of rubies into Thailand, which is estimated to cost the country some \$350 million a year, Mr. Jabir said. About 90 per cent of rubies mined in Vietnam are believed to be smuggled to Thailand.

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Champions Manchester United check Tottenham's flying start

LONDON (R) — Tottenham's flying start to the English premier league season, inspired by German World Cup striker Juergen Klinsmann, was checked when they lost 1-0 to champions Manchester United Saturday.

The London club, winners over Sheffield Wednesday and Everton in their first two games, conceded a headed goal to defender Steve Bruce four minutes after halftime in their home clash.

Tottenham's misery was compounded when striker Teddy Sheringham had a penalty saved — his second spot kick miss in four days — late in the second half.

Klinsmann, scorer of three goals in his opening two matches for his new club, brilliantly hooked the ball home in the 43rd minute but had the effort disallowed for offside.

Gnal-hungry Newcastle thrashed Southampton 5-1 — they have now scored 12 times in three games — with defender Steve Watson and marksman Andy Cole both getting two strikes.

Chris Sutton, Blackburn's close-season signing from Norwich, was another forward in form, firing a hit-trick in his team's 4-0 victory over Coventry.

Manchester United, seeking their third consecutive premier league title, often struggled for inspiration and looked unsure against Tottenham's five-man attack.

The champions, having survived until halftime, took the lead after 49 minutes in farcical fashion.

Ryan Giggs curled a right-wing corner towards the far post and goalkeeper Ian Walker slipped over at the critical moment, leaving Bruce with a straightforward, unopposed header to put his side ahead.

Tottenham squandered the chance to equalise from the spot after Bruce tripped Romanian forward Ilie Dumitrescu in the 75th minute.

Sheringham, who hasted a penalty kick against Everton over the har Wednesday, aimed for the right hand corner but Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel read it perfectly and saved.

Newcastle's thumping home success over Southampton secured a 100 per cent winning record, the only one in the premier league, after three matches and put them top of the table.

A double strike by Watson in the 30th and 37th minutes gave Newcastle the initiative and Cole consolidated with goals after 40 and 70 minutes.

Forward Nicky Banger pulled one back in the 52nd minute but Robert Lee sealed Newcastle's win with an 85th minute strike.

Blackburn, who paid Norwich five million pounds sterling (\$7.77 million) for Sutton in a bid to enhance their title ambitions, have seen the striker swiftly start to repay

his transfer fee. Sutton produced a fine all-round display as Coventry were emphatically beaten 4-0 for the second time in four days.

After missing two early chances, Sutton cleared a Phil Babb header off the Blackburn goal line before the interval and then scored in the 67th, 74th and 89th minutes. Jason Wilcox added to the rout with a 77th minute goal.

Chelsea staged a compelling fightback to snatch a 3-2 victory with a late winner at Leeds.

Leeds raced 2-0 ahead within 19 minutes through South African striker Phil Masinga and Noel Whelan.

But the Londoners reduced the deficit with a Dennis Wise penalty before John Spencer pulled them level and then grabbed the deciding goal with just two minutes left.

Two strikes by German Uwe Rosler thrust Manchester City to a 4-0 home win over Everton, while Nottingham Forest continued an encouraging start on their return to the premier league.

A first-half goal from striker Stan Collymore gave Forest a 1-0 home success against Leicester, who are struggling after being promoted along with Forest at the end of last season. They were hammered by Newcastle and Blackburn during the previous six days.

Borussia Dortmund lead in Germany

BONN (Agencies) — Unbeaten Borussia Dortmund took the solo lead of the German league, beating Kaiserslautern 2-1 as rivals Stuttgart faltered at home to Cologne Saturday, drawing 1-1 and sliding into fourth place.

Karlsruhe, following a 4-1 destruction of Duisburg, were in second place with Werder Bremen breathing down their necks in third place on goal difference after demolishing Bochum 3-0. Midfielder Basler scored all three.

Borussia played Friday and led 1-0 at half time with a goal from Chapuisat in the 40th minute. Zore added the second from a 74th minute penalty and Kunst got the consolation goal for Kaiserslautern with eight minutes to go.

For Karlsruhe Tarant scored two and Knup and Wueck added the other in the 4-1 win over Duisburg, for whom Koezle pulled one back.

Hamburg won for the first time this season and were the only away winner of the day, beating Schalke 04 by the only goal of the game.

Al Hussein stun Al Faisali, win Federation Shield title

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Hussein Friday stunned the Kingdom's soccer champions Al Faisali when they scored an unexpected 2-1 victory to win the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) Shield trophy for the first time.

Munih Gharaiheh opened scoring for Al Hussein in the 40th minute, however Ja'afar Hammad soon equalised in the 54th minute of the match attended by only 8,000 fans.

Al Hussein's winning goal was scored by striker Ahmad Al Shagran in the 84th minute dashing Al Faisali's hopes of winning the title for a record fourth time.

Al Faisali had eliminated Al Wihdat and Al Ramtha, who had both also won the title three times each.

The competition — in which only first division teams take part — is one of four championships organised annually since 1981. Other competitions are the first division, the Cup Winner's Cup and the Jordan Cup.

Al Hussein had not won a major title for years. Their best achievement was finishing second in the first division in 1990 and 1992, and in the shield in 1987 and 1990.

Al Faisali, who have been the Kingdom's soccer champions for the past two consecutive years, nevertheless proved that they are



Al Hussein Club's goalkeeper and captain Federation Shield from Youth Minister Fawwaz Al Dhaman received the Jordan Soccer Federation Shield trophy from Youth Minister Fawwaz Al Dhaman Friday evening.

Federation Shield Record

1981	Al Faisali
1982	Al Wihdat
1983	Al Wihdat
1984	Amman
1985	Amman
1986	Al Faisali
1987	Al Faisali
1988	Al Wihdat
1989	Al Ramtha
1990	Al Ramtha
1991	Al Faisali
1992	Al Faisali
1993	Al Ramtha
1994	Al Hussein

undoubtedly the most consistent among the country's top teams after recently adding the 1994 Cup Winner's Cup to their long list of achievements.

In 1993 they clinched the first division, the Jordan Cup and Cup Winner's Cup, and in 1992 they won the Jordan Cup, the Shield and the first division.

Al Faisali will soon begin the defence of their first division title when the competition kicks off Aug. 31.

IOC: Olympics to generate \$2.5 billion

PARIS (AFP) — The Olympic Games will generate \$2.5 billion in revenue for the 1993-1996 period, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) reports.

Seven per cent of that sum — \$175 million — will be retained by the IOC which for the next eight days oversees the movement's 12th Olympic Congress here.

"The revenues derived from television, sponsorship and general fund-raising help to provide the movement with its financial independence," IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch says.

"However, in developing these programmes we must always remember that it is sport that must control its destiny, not commercial interests."

Richard Pound, the Canadian IOC executive board member who is chairman of the new sources of financing and TV rights negotiating commissions, also refutes suggestions that the move-

ment leaves itself open to manipulation by its business backers.

"Take away sponsorship and commercialism from sport today and what is left? A large, sophisticated, finely-tuned engine developed over a period of 100 years — with no fuel," Pound says in the latest issue of the IOC's review of marketing.

Yet the IOC, which now has a permanent staff of 130, at Lausanne, does not put the games — that is done by the host city — and does not run competitions which are organised by the international federations.

So the \$175 million the "non-profit making" IOC will manage up to 1996 can only be channelled into "building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport" as the IOC charter puts it.

Olympic chiefs were worried the bottom had dropped out of the American television market as the NBC net-

work lost \$100 million on its \$401 million investment in the 1992 Barcelona Games.

But NBC will pay \$456 million for the 1996 Atlanta Games while the European Broadcasting Union will pay an unprecedented \$250 million.

Atlanta also hopes to sell 11 million tickets at an average \$40 to gross \$440 million.

Nagano sold U.S. rights for the 1998 Winter Games for \$375 million to CBS, against \$295 million for the Lillehammer Games in February.

No wonder nine cities, eager to stage the Winter Games in 2002, have already started lobbying.

This congress, which will cost upwards of 80 million francs (\$5 million) shared between Paris city hall, the French state and the IOC, assembles 2,000 people to talk about the future of the Olympics.

Broadly-speaking, the last

congress, in Baden Baden in 1981, concluded there was no room for the highly-paid stars of professional sport in the Olympics.

The final statement said: "There was no place in the Olympic Games for 'professional' or 'open' competition."

"The principles of Rule 26 must be retained and the by-laws made suitable for each Olympic sport, but compliance with this rule should not create inequalities between competitors."

Rule 26, which enforced the amateur status of competitors, is a thing of the past. Samaranch always says now he wants the best sportsmen at the Olympics.

The best basketballers in 1992 formed what they called a Dream Team and the way Michael Jordan and company slaughtered the rest of the competition demonstrated just how unequal sport can be.



TEEMING OFF: British embassy official Dick Lockyer takes a swing at the Annual Nations Cup competition last Friday (Photo by Rana Hussein)

IAAF denies 20 more positive dope tests

PARIS (R) — An International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) spokesman Saturday denied a British newspaper report that it had been informed of up to 20 new positive dope tests.

"I can categorically deny that there are 20 positives," IAAF press spokesman Christopher Winner told Reuters in a telephone interview from Rome.

"Twenty sounds like one of those arbitrary figures that somebody pulled out of the sky because it sounds good."

Britain's Guardian newspaper said Saturday the IAAF had been informed of up to 20 new positive tests among athletes from out-of-competition samples taken worldwide in recent months.

Winner said he was not aware of any new positive test that had not been announced publicly.

He said he believed the newspaper report could have been based on a misunderstanding. "In the last three months we have certainly had over 10 positives," he said, adding that these cases were all public knowledge.

Winner said an unusually large number of tests had been carried out in recent weeks because of the European championships, Goodwill Games and other summer events as well as out-of-competition tests, but that laboratory results were still awaited in many cases.

The IAAF also denied suggestions by British athletics officials that there had been skulduggery in the doping case of women's 800 metres runner Diane Modahl, who was sent home from the Commonwealth Games in Canada this week.

The British officials said they had been notified that Modahl had shown positive in an initial, or a sample only on Wednesday, nine weeks after the test was taken in Portugal.

Russian officials had apparently known about the result a month earlier. But Winner said the IAAF was not to blame for the long delay in notifying the British federation of the result as it had only been informed itself a week ago.

He said the Portuguese laboratory which carried out the test had failed to pass the results on to the IAAF, as it should have, and told the Portuguese federation instead.

Because of holidays, there had been a hold-up in passing the result to the IAAF, he added.

Winner said laboratories did not always understand the vital importance of getting results quickly to the IAAF.

"But we're not the world's policeman," he said. "We have no army of Sylvester Stallones or Schwarzeneggers to go out and twist their arms."

Albania to give UEFA anti-defection guarantees

TIRANA (R) — The Albanian Football Association said Friday it was surprised by a UEFA ultimatum to guarantee players would not defect but would meet the UEFA deadline.

UEFA, European soccer's governing body, issued its ultimatum to the association Thursday, requiring it to provide guarantees by Friday night that it could fulfill all conditions required to play in the European championship.

Giorgi Thaka, an Albanian Football Association official, told Reuters he would answer UEFA immediately, though he expressed surprise at the ultimatum.

"We learnt only today of the ultimatum and worked hard to collect signatures from the players in Albania. But now I can say for sure we have no problem meeting UEFA's deadline," Thaka said.

UEFA warned that Alba-



John McEnroe

McEnroe wants major changes in tennis

NEW YORK (R) — If John McEnroe were in charge, there would be major changes in the game of tennis — like moving Wimbledon or the U.S. Open indoors.

"I have always endorsed the idea of holding a major tournament indoors," said McEnroe, who would rather that sun, wind and other weather elements not be a factor with a Grand Slam title on the line.

"All sports should give athletes a chance to perform at their best and I don't think that's done in tennis," he said.

McEnroe, the best tennis player in the world for much of the 1980s, discussed the current state of the game during a telephone news conference ahead of the U.S. Open, which starts Monday at the National Tennis Centre in Flushing Meadow.

The former tennis bad boy does not think it possible any longer to see the highest quality tennis on French Open clay or the grass of Wimbledon, where he won three of his seven Grand Slam crowns.

"On clay the points are so slow...at Wimbledon the serve is so high you hardly have a chance to get the ball back."

McEnroe, one of the most exciting athletes ever to play the game both for his shot-making artistry and explosive temper, thinks tennis needs to be shot in the arm.

"The tennis establishment has to realise something needs to be done to make it more exciting, just like soccer. Both are great sports but they need some changes," he said.

McEnroe said something must be done about the serve, rackets, and balls, the length and pace of matches, the tour calendar, the rankings system and the U.S. Open format for semifinals and finals. And he was just getting warmed up.

He echoed recent criticisms by another former number one, Jimmy Connors, who feels the emphasis on the power serve had taken much of the artistry out of the men's game.

"They need to do something about the serve in

men's tennis. The game should be more than just the serve," said the 35-year-old McEnroe, whose imaginative shots and angled volleys kept his game interesting at all times.

He suggested eliminating let cords and making it illegal to jump off the ground while serving. "Big servers would still serve big, but it wouldn't be as much of a factor."

McEnroe, who will work as a television analyst during the open, won the tournament for the last time 10 years ago. "It doesn't seem like a long time ago," he said of his fourth U.S. Open title. "But it sounds like a long time ago."

Since his retirement, the father of three has had some time to ruminate over what ails tennis these days and one of McEnroe's main gripes is that there is just too much of it.

"I don't think we should be playing a tournament every week of the year. You have to give players and fans a break from tennis."

He also said matches must keep moving to hold fan in-

terest. "You have to eliminate excuses to stop play," he said, suggesting changeovers after four games instead of after every other game.

"They shouldn't allow players to stall just because people are moving around in the stands," he added about a constant source of player frustration at the U.S. Open in particular.

McEnroe was especially critical of the rankings system that only counts a player's best 14 results or divides his results by 14 if an athlete plays fewer than 14 tournaments.

"Under this system a player could conceivably win all four majors and not be ranked number one at the end of the year."

"The best of 14 should be abolished immediately. Every time you walk out on court it should count."

McEnroe did seem to be at peace with his decision to retire from competitive tennis.

"I don't miss the rigours of travelling and I couldn't take the losing," he said. "That's why I'm just playing exhibitions, although I can't say I'm thrilled even when I lose in exhibitions."

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Bugno tests caffeine positive

ROME (R) — Italian Gianni Bugno, winner of two world cycling championship road races, has failed a dope test for caffeine, state television said Friday.

A spokesman for the Italian Cycling Federation (FCI), who said he could not confirm the reports, acknowledged an Italian rider had tested positive but would not disclose his name or the substance until he had been officially informed.

Television reports said Bugno, 30, had tested positive for the banned substance after Italy's Agostoni Cup August 17.

Television later quoted Bugno as denying he had taken anything that could fail a dope test for caffeine.

"I drank a cup of coffee that morning — as I always do. This all seems very strange to me," Bugno said.

"In any case, I have yet to receive any official word on the matter," he added.

FCI spokesman Livio Iacovella said the rider would have five days to ask for another test to validate the finding. His name would be revealed only after the results of the second test had come through.

Iacovella said a simple cup of coffee did not suffice to test positive for caffeine.

"You would have to drink about 10 cups of coffee to do that," Iacovella told Reuters by telephone from the Sicilian city of Agrigento, where the world cycling road race is to be held on Sunday.

Bugno, who won that race in 1991 and 1992, dropped out of this year's version Thursday. He said he had injured his ankle Monday when he crashed in training after swerving to avoid a boy who had wandered into his path.

His left ankle badly swollen, Bugno did not accompany the Italian team to Sicily Wednesday, forcing coach Alfredo Martino to call up experienced reserve Davide Cassani for the race in Agrigento.

A third win in that race was Bugno's dream.

Hockey might join baseball in limbo

NEW YORK (AFP) — National Hockey League (NHL) owners have given approval for commissioner Gary Bettman to shut down pre-season training camps, scheduled to open in 10 days, unless major progress is made in labour talks.

With North American baseball players already on strike, a lockout would mean two major U.S. sports leagues would be out of work over salary limit proposals by owners. The NHL season is scheduled to begin October 1.

"The rumour is there will be a lockout," Washington goaltender Don Beaupre said. "We haven't agreed to what they want, a salary cap."

NHL players have been without a bargaining agreement since Sept. 15, 1993. Owners and players have met just once in the past five months and no future talks are scheduled.

"The guys are supposed to have saved their money for the possibility this would happen," Edmonton goaltender Bill Ranford said.

NHL officials would not comment on reports Bettman has already decided to lock out players. Bettman has said he wants to avoid a "baseball scenario," with players out at the end of the season as they were for 12 days in 1992.

Bettman sparked hard feelings among players with a letter earlier this month that threatened the imposition of economic cutbacks, including meal money for players when they are on the road.

"We plan on starting the season as scheduled, but we feel they want us to strike," Beaupre said. "They're trying to force these take-

away on us and it's a joke."

The baseball strike and possible hockey lockout could be a harbinger of things to come in the National Basketball Association (NBA), where salary limits have been in place under a contract that expired in June. NBA players want an end to the cap in their current negotiations.

National Football League (NFL) teams are in the first months of a salary cap, which has forced many veteran players to take severe pay cuts or retire because no team can afford to pay what they had been making. Rosters are filled with younger players and in many cases a few high-paid stars and many lower-paid teammates, even among starters.

Hopes dim for resumption of baseball season

Meanwhile, baseball players and owners were doubtful whether the 1994 baseball season will resume after two meetings this week showed little room for compromise in their labour dispute.

"I don't think we're going to play baseball again this year," Philadelphia pitcher Curt Schilling said.

The first face-to-face talks between owners and players allowed both sides to air their position but accomplished little. New talks are not scheduled.

"Clearly there was nothing else to say," players' union head Don Fehr said.

Owners want salary limitations to keep from spending themselves into bankruptcy by bidding against each other for top talent. They claim many teams are in jeopardy of failing, but have provided no documentation of the position.

"The main issue is manag-

ing salary," Boston owner John Harrington said. "The owners and players have to reconsider their positions."

Players have little trust in the owners, who colluded to keep salaries down in the late 1980s and eventually were ordered in court to pay damages. They said players should not be punished for ownership mismanagement and claim teams are in excellent financial health.

"Who knows if they have got a Plan B. If they do, they had better get to it because Plan A is not working," Atlanta pitcher Tom Glavine said.

So far the strike, now 15 days old, has wiped out 161 games and cost players more than \$81 million in salaries. Owners have lost \$119 million in revenues.

Based on prior sales this season, vendors at stadiums have lost more than seven million beer sales and 3.6 million sales of hot dogs.

Owners are considering plans to play the World Series in November at a neutral site, a warm-weather stadium or enclosed facility if talks prevent resumption of the season or scuttle the scheduled October playoffs.

Schilling said going directly from the strike to the playoffs or playing a neutral-site World Series "would jeopardize the integrity of the game and what the playoffs stand for."

Every missed day brings owners closer to wiping out playoffs.

"Many business decisions have to be made in early September," Harrington said. "We're closing in on the point of no return. But the hard deadline is mid-September."

Barrichello gains pole of Belgian GP

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (R) — Heavy overnight rain and a track covered in puddles and standing water ensured that Rubens Barrichello claimed his and the Jordan team's first pole position Saturday.

The 22-year-old Brazilian, who sat out the wet final qualifying session, was able to rely on his time from Friday to ensure he heads the grid for Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix.

He will have championship-leading German Michael Schumacher alongside him at the start of the 44-lap race, the Benetton man having been unable to improve on his overnight time from Friday.

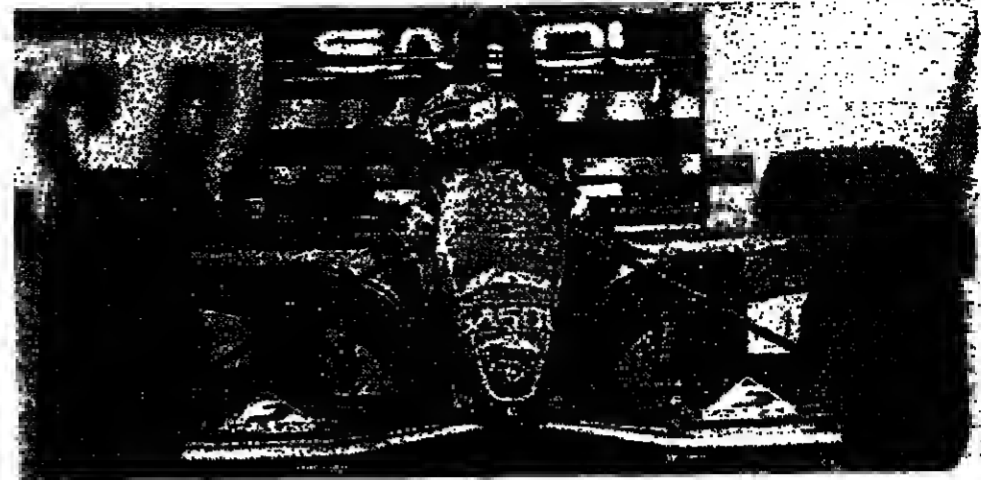
"This is my best ever chance to finish on the podium," said Barrichello. "It's a great day for the team and to have me at the front and Eddie (Irvine) fourth is fantastic."

Barrichello dedicated his pole position achievement to fellow-Brazilian and inspiration, the late Ayrton Senna, "and all the other people who always believed in me and my ability."

Briton Damon Hill, who went out but found the conditions worked against improved times, finished third on the grid beside Irvine in fourth place.

The only driver to improve his time from Friday was Brazilian Christian Fittipaldi who moved his footwork up to 24th on the grid with a lap in two minutes and 30.931 seconds.

This meant that the two



Brazilian Rubens Barrichello drives his Saab-Jordan during the first official practices for Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix (AFP photo)

pacifists of Frenchmen Bertrand Gachot and Paul Belmondo failed to qualify.

Belgian Philippe Adams, making his debut with Lotus, qualified for his first Grand Prix in 26th and last place on the grid.

Barrichello, who was seen rubbing his hands with glee before being engulfed in a mass of back-slapping teammates at the end of the session, was asked about Senna.

"I know he got his first pole position and his first win in the wet too," he replied. "I don't know where he is now, but he may be very happy. The wet conditions today, the way I took the pole, the good work of the Jordan team to make all this happen and the fact it was a good lap as well."

"All of this makes me dedicate this to him (Senna) and to all the people who believed Rubens Barrichello

could be in this place now."

Barrichello and his teammate Irvine revelled in the luxury of being able to sit in their garage and watch the session on television, safe in the knowledge that few if any of their rivals would be able to improve their times in the perilous conditions.

Belmondo also did not go out.

Schumacher was not disappointed. "I would of course be happier to be on pole, but I congratulate Rubens and the Jordan team. I made a little mistake and it cost me my chance of pole position," he said.

"On this circuit, it is good to be on the front row and I am looking forward to the race."

Barrichello said he was aware that he was surrounded on the grid by two drivers seeking the cham-

ampionship. "I know what that means and if they are trying to get past me I will let them go. I am only aiming for a podium finish and this is my best chance."

He would not be drawn on talk about his future — or suggestions that he is poised to join the McLaren team next year — but admitted he was in negotiations with the Jordan team.

Hill said it was good to see Barrichello and Jordan at the front of a fresh-looking grid, but warned that the wet conditions were perilous for the drivers, particularly at Eau Rouge, where a new chicane has been installed.

He said he was concerned at the wall on the right side of the track on entry. "But it is the same for everyone and we shall have to get on with it this year," he said.

Desperately seeking bankable star, Formula One eyes former champ Mansell

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (AP) — One of the hottest drivers in Formula One nowadays is nowhere in sight. Still, Nigel Mansell is already making some nervous and others giddy with excitement.

With the tragic death of Ayrton Senna, the retirement of Alain Prost and the self-imposed exile of Mansell to the United States, Germany's Michael Schumacher is running away with the championship.

Meanwhile, Formula One is looking for someone to make it a tight race next year and a proven, bankable star to recapture interest.

So talk at the Belgian Grand Prix now centres on the return of the irrepressible Briton, whose daredevil driving earned him the 1992 world title and the adoration of fans around the world.

"We can only be overjoyed at the thought of Mansell coming back," said Patrick Faure, head of Renault

Sports Engines, which supplies the powerplant for Mansell's old team Williams-Renault.

Across the Atlantic Ocean, Mansell is completing a less-than-perfect IndyCar season. In his first year he won the PPG Cup, but this year he is winless and has failed to finish five of the 12 races.

"We know that Nigel is no longer happy in the United States," Faure said. He is still under contract with the Newman-Haas, but the IndyCar circuit is already rife with rumours on possible replacements for Mansell.

And by making a cameo appearance at the French Grand Prix in June, he signalled he still loves Formula One enough to return.

But at what price? Faure said Williams is still having talks with Mansell to lure him back but that nothing is decided yet. Mansell

could even return for some of the late races in this year's championship.

While few doubt it would give the sport a much needed competitive shot in the arm, competition also means Mansell would claim the leadership position in the Williams stable, now belonging to fellow-Briton Damon Hill.

"It is a fairly close to completion situation," admitted Hill, not exactly jumping for joy.

Even though he already won two grands prix and clinched two pole positions, Hill hardly draws attention the way Mansell did.

During his one-race return this year, Mansell did some testing in Britain and immediately came close to the lap record at Brands Hatch, 20 months after his last grand prix. During the French Grand Prix, he retired with mechanical problems.

Schumacher has almost monopolised the world's gaze this year, winning seven of 10 races and four of the last seven pole positions. He now leads the standings with 76 points, with Hill trailing by 31. Five races remain after the Belgian-Grand Prix.

But even Schumacher's cheerful personality and ubiquitous smile is overshadowed now by several controversies, that could still affect his world championship chances.

An appeal on a two-race suspension for disregarding a black flag at the British Grand Prix will be heard in Paris Tuesday, and his Benetton team could still be penalised for an alleged infraction of refueling procedures that FIA blames for a pit fire that turned the car of Schumacher's teammate Jos Verstappen in a hall of flame at the German Grand Prix.

Baiul to train in U.S.

KIEV (R) — Olympic figure skating champion Oksana Baiul will leave Ukraine next month to train permanently at a new rink in Hartford, Connecticut, her coach has said.

The offer was made after Baiul won the Olympic title in Norway in February.

Coach Galina Zmievskaya said Baiul "was actively and very seriously preparing for the European and world championships. Oksana is ready for battle and full of energy."

"After Sept. 10 we plan to leave for Hartford to continue the training," she told Reuters by telephone from Dnepropetrovsk, Baiul's hometown in eastern Ukraine.

Zmievskaya dismissed suggestions Baiul was still suffer-

ing from a back injury sustained on the eve of her gold medal performance. When she collided with another skater in practice.

"Her health is normal, there are no problems resulting from her injury," Zmievskaya said.

Since winning Ukraine's first Olympic gold at the Lillehammer Games, Baiul and her coach have complained of poor training conditions in the destitute former Soviet Republic.

Former President Leonid Kravchuk pledged help to keep the 16-year-old in Ukraine. But proposals by Ukrainian businessmen to provide equipment and even a rink with acceptable ice have apparently fallen through.

Baiul and Zmievskaya are living in a modest hotel in

Dnepropetrovsk in anticipation of their departure.

"Oksana is sitting next to me right now on the floor, studying English," Zmievskaya said.

A sponsor in Hartford offered Baiul the new training opportunity after her Olympic victory over U.S. favourite Nancy Kerrigan.

The president of the Ukrainian Figure Skating Federation, Ludmila Mikhailovskaya, said Baiul would enter international competitions in November or December along with Viktor Petrenko, who won Olympic gold in 1992 and who was fourth in Lillehammer.

Mikhailovskaya said both skaters had taken part in the Goodwill Games (in July and August) in St. Petersburg "and they are worn out."

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♣ 7 4 3

♠ 6 5

SOUTH

♠ K 10 7 5 4

♥ A K Q 5 2

♦ 6

♣ A 9

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

2 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♥ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

4 NT Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Whether on land or water, Bill Root is acclaimed as the world's premier teacher. During the course of his career in New York and Florida thousands of pupils have attended his courses. His bridge courses draw more players than any other school. This hand was played on a recent cruise aboard the Royal Viking Sun.

North's jump to six hearts over the Blackwood inquiry showed one ace and a void in a suit higher ranking than trumps in this case it could only be spades. South settled for a small slam when we know some who would have contracted for all the tricks.

Declarer won the trump lead, ruffed a spade and returned to hand with the ace of clubs to ruff another spade. One more spade was discarded on the second high diamond and declarer ruffed a diamond and tried to draw trumps. When hearts didn't break, declarer left a high trump outstanding and started on clubs. Unfortunately, West was able to ruff the third club and cash the ace of spades for down one.

Root had spotted the deal and it is now one of his lesson hands. All declarer needed to do to make six spades was to allow West to win the first trick! The defenders could do no better than continue trumps. Declarer wins, ruffs a spade in dummy and then returns to hand with the ace of clubs to draw trumps and claim the slam. In all, declarer makes four trump tricks, one spade ruff, two diamonds and five clubs — 12 tricks on the nose.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

U.S. foreign service written entrance examination for U.S. citizens only. Will be held Saturday, November 19, 1994. Deadline for application to be received in the U.S. is October 7, 1994. Application and further information available Personnel Section U.S. Embassy Amman

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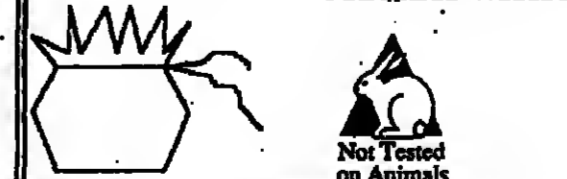
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